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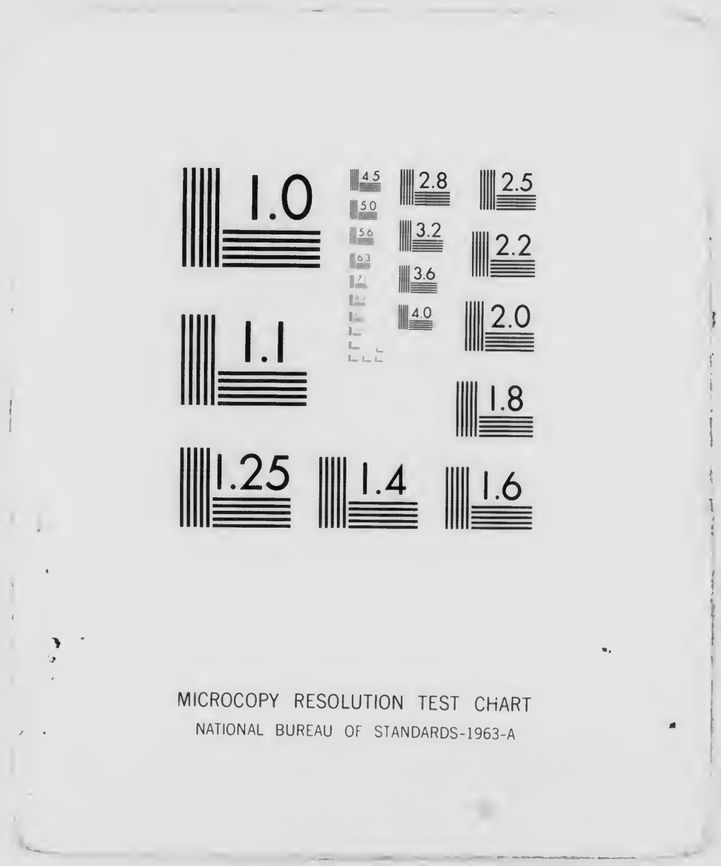

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VOLUME NUMBER: 1

Dec. 1886 - April 1900

C. Hart Merriam - Personal

Dec. 1886 - April 1900

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
Y

Bagg, C.L. 45,
Bagg, Egbert. 18, 262,
Bailey, Vernon. 1, 118, 137-145, 186-189, 214, 231, 241, 264,

Baker, A.B. 11, 43, 62, 242,

Barrett, Dr. W.C. 5,

Bean, Dr. Tarleton H. 174,
Bell, Dr. Robert, 195, 203,
Bien, Julius & Co. 170,

Botchford (application for Pension) 173,
Bourinot, Dr. Jno. Geo. 100, 164,

Boynton, C.L. 6, 90,

Brainard, Lt. David L. 36,

Brimley Bros. (H.H. & C.S.) 17, 37, 55, 56, 66, 93, 108, 149, 176, 202, 230, 268, 272,

Bryant, Walter E. 94,

Burroughs, John 266.

Butler, Amos W. 57,

Adney, E.T., 270,

Allen, J.A. 9, 146, 224, 267,

Allen, C.A. 273,

Anthony, A.W. 246,

Audubon Magazine 236,

Avery, Dr. W.C., 166, 196, 210,

Chamberlain, Montegue ~~Mt~~, 254

Cherrie, Geo. K. 34,

Clark, Hubert L. 124,
Clark, H.S. 13,

Coale, H.K. 74,

Coman, Chas. 92,

Cope, Prof. E.D. 267, 329

Dall, Dr. W.H. 256.

Dart, Wm. 27,

Diller, J.S. 218,

Directions for preparing Skins of Mammals. 39.

Dobson, Dr. Geo. 157,

E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y

Hancock, J.L. 61,

Harger, Mrs. Oscar 251.
Hawley, Hon. Jos. R. 205,

Henry, Rev. Ira B. 7, 26, 121, 200, 248,

Herrick, Prof. C.L. 80,

Hiscock, A.D. 38, 179,

Greely, Gen. A.W. 65,

Grinnell, Dr. Geo. Bird, 235, 271,

Hoadley, Dr. F.H. 126, 233,
Hodges, N.D.C. 154,
Holt, Henry & Co. 127-128, 133, 244,

Hoxie, Walter, 156, 165,

Johnstone, Dr. Wm. H. 60, 181,

Lewis, John B. 33, 81, 109, 183, 208. 219,

Lloyd, Wm. 58, 96, 152, 222,

Nekrkorn, Adolph. 221,

Mammals, Directions for preparing Skins. 39
" of Manitoba. 86-88.
Matteson, Dr. F.S. 25,

Macbeth, Col. Alex. 105.
McElhraith, Thos. 83,

Macoun, James M. 243,

Measurement of tail 145,

Merrill, Dr. J.C. 40, 175, 213,

Miller, Hon. Warner, 54.

Mother, 227,

Parker, Samuel. 258.

O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
Y

Quackenbos, Dr. John D. 21, 29, 101, 150,
158-163, 171, 184, 190, 239, 249,

Rathbun, Richard, 209,

Sage, John H., 193,

Scott, W.E.D. 51, 53,
" W.L.

Shufeldt, R.W. 79, 130-132, 177-178,

Snyder, John J. 35,

Stechert, Gustav E. 82,
Stevens, F., 14, 64,

Thomas, Oldfield. 91, 260,

Thomomys talpoides perpallidus, 8,

Thompson, Ernest E. 47, 68, 71, 73, 75, 84,
111, 123, 198, 238,

True, F.W., 263,

Tullberg, Prof. Tycho. 216,
Turner, Dr. M.H. 19, 24, 103,
" Lucien M. 245,

Tyler & Rutherford 107,

U
V
W
Y

Wainright, J.G. 50,

Wayne, Arthur T. 212,

Weeks, Rev. Leroy T. 168,

Whiteaves, J.F. 204,
Wilbur, Chas. S. 16,

Worthington, [redacted].W.W. 42,

Williston, [illegible].S.W. 201,

Winchell, Prof. N.H. 89,

Young, James W. 135,

W
Y

Dec. 16, 1886

Herman Bailey Esq.
Binghamton
Dear Sir:

Have been very much pressed with work lately or would have written you before in regard to the last lot of mammals sent.

They were packed very poorly & rattled about so much that many of them had their tails badly injured. The Badger should have had mice (a good sized one) in its fore leg, to keep them stiff.

The skunks are poor. They are unskinned and very dirty, as if they had been left in an old barn for a long time. I wonder why it is you do not make better skunk skins when you can, all so nicely prepared! The Gray squirrel might average considerably better without much trouble. The red squirrels, gopher, & other small things are all right.

I am sorry you forgot to measure

these animals. In some cases, particularly the skunks, Badger, & Squirrels, I very much want measurements. Wonder why you used your label instead of mine? If you are out of mind you should have written & I would have sent a fresh batch. A little more care in writing the labels would be well expended. Some of your figures are hard to read — particularly your 3, which look like almost anything.

Of the 6 skunk skulls sent, but one has all the teeth. The Badger has lost 1 canine & both outer incisors.

One skunk has lost 1 back under molar & all 4 premolars
" " " " both " " " " & one "
" " " "
" " " " 1 lower premolar.

But 2 of the skunks have perfect tails, the other 4 having lost the terminal tuft of white. I wonder if you didn't keep them too long before skinning!

You must have left out one box of small things for I find no skulls for any of the following: 6 Rats; 2 Weasels; 3 Sorex furcatus; 4 Neotoma; 4 Blarina; 8 Zapus.

I find 2 extra skulls, 1 of Peromyscus nubiterrae no. 476, & the other of Zemia striatus by Trt.

And what did you do with those specimens of Casper's Dusodus hyoides? I wanted them more than anything you sent. Those send them along by mail packed in their cigar box. All I need are the missing skulls.

I am afraid you have a poor place to work in, as you are trying to do too much in going to school & collecting at the same time. Perhaps a little of both!

I will give you $3.42 for this lot (the price of one includes the skull to come), but in future please try to be a little more careful & particular.

Now, I want to ask you about those Gray Squirrels. They are very peculiar those you sent me before are all of the same kind, large & with white tufts in the ears, & in the skins the ears hang

4

down instead of standing upright. Written
Not many are but 2 of this kind, one
adult & one young. The next show
ears not stood up straight & not seem
to be a little narrower. Have you noticed
their condition before skinning?
Did of these squirrels have the entire
belly white which do not run as
mates as my dent frequently. The next
have the belly more variously grizzled.
Now what I want to know is this:
Do you have all these variously mixed
kinds of squirrels mate - you all these
kinds, or are they a migrating lot from
some other place? Your natural resident
kind I frequently believed to be the one
with white ear tufts, which in size
is larger than any of the others.
How near does the Fox Squirrel come
to you? Some of these look like
hybrids. I wish you would study
out these matter carefully. It is a
very interesting as well as perplexing matter.
I will give you 50 cts each for another
lot of them (Gray Squirrel).
Yours C. Hart Merriam

Dec. 18, 1886.

Dr. W. C. Barrett,

Corresponding Secretary of Buffalo Soc. Nat. Sciences.

Dear Sir:

I have this day received your announcement of my election to Corresponding Membership in the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences.

It gives me pleasure to accept the honor thus conferred, and I shall always be pleased to promote the objects of the Society in any way in my power.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

(Dictated)

Dec. 19, 6

Mr. C. L. Boynton.
Dear Sir:

I have not heard from you in a very long time and wonder whether or no you care to do any more collecting for me.

I should like a number more of the mice, squirrels, and other mammals from your neighborhood.

Hoping to hear from you
I am, very truly yrs.
C. Hart Merriam.

Dec. 19, 6

Rev. Ira B. Henry
Mason, Ills.

Dear Sir:

Do you mind to collect any more mammals for me?

I would like more of the little striped skunk; of the big skunk with all-white back & short tail; of the Rock Squirrel; of mice & several other things.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam —

PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION OF A NEW POCKET GOPHER FROM CALIFORNIA

(Thomomys talpoides perpallidus[x] sub-sp.nov.).

Mr. F. Stephens, one of my Californian mammal collectors, has sent me several specimens of a small Pocket Gopher, of the genus Thomomys, which I do not find described. It may be distinguished at a glance from all its congeners, except T.clusius of Coues, by its color, which is very pale brownish-yellow above, and white underneath and on the sides and legs. It differs from T.clusius in the great length of its tail, which is half as long as the head and body, and in other characters which will be pointed out in a later paper on the animal.

All the specimens were captured on the arid Colorado Desert, in Southern California, in March and April 1886.

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[x]The subspecific name perpallidus refers to the very pale color of the animal.

C. Hart Merriam.

Dec. 20, 6

Dear Mr. Allen:

I hope you will pardon my long delay in sending the minutes of the late meeting of the A.O.U. They go to you this afternoon or in the morning.

The reason you did not have them before is that I only yesterday finished with the Cong[l] Comm. on Agl. — and it might be added, parenthetically, that the future of the Division looks brighter than ever before.

This morning for the first time I have examined my series of Spermophiles tredecimvittatus, and, unfortunately, it looks very much as if you had put your foot in it' — as you suggested when here.

Without looking at the labels I separated all my specimens into two piles, one with a long, slender, cylindrical tail; the other with a short, thick, sharply bicolor tail.

On reading the labels, it appears that the former lot came from the Colorado desert, and the latter from the Mojave desert & River.
I have first one skin from Yuma, Arizona, and its tail agrees with those of the Colorado desert specimens, but its back is more red.

The above remarks refer exclusively to skins, as I have not examined my alcoholics.

Now this puts me in an awkward position. Knowing that Merriam suspected a difference I do not feel at liberty to describe the new subspecies. Neither do I care particularly to give him the benefit of my skins, which cost me more money than almost any I possess.

Does not this also serve to emphasize the superiority of good skins over pickles?

Am writing at the house, and both Mrs. Merriam and Miss. Gardner join me in kindest regard to Mrs. Allen and yourself.

As ever, very truly yrs,
C. Hart Merriam—

Dec. 20, 6

Mr. A. B. Baker
Dear Sir:
Your letter of the 13th inst. has this day arrived.
I will give you $7.50 for the three skins of canis latrans (544), but do not want any more of them.
Do not care for anything in alcohol except bats & shrews, and never pay half as much for an alcoholic as for dry skin & skull of the same.
Please send all the small skins you have to date when you send these, and pack the same a little more carefully than the lot you once sent to Lincoln Grove.
Would be obliged if you will send at least half a dozen Peteromys nigrifes in the lot. I will remit each at once
Very truly Yours,
C. Hart Merriam—

P.S. You speak of the bats sent so long ago as if there were more of them than I need. The total number transferred to me by Mr. Lane (and all I have ever seen) is right, of which number one is a skin.

C. H. M.

Dec. 26, 6

Mr. H. A. Clark

Dear Sir:

The delay in replying to your letter is due to the fact that I have been trying to learn of something that would enable you to accomplish what you wish in the line of perfection in taxidermy.

I have ascertained that Prof. H. A. Ward of Rochester, New York, sometimes takes young men who desire to become good taxidermists, & pays them enough to cover living expenses while they are working with him assisting this skilled workmen. My advice to you is to write him & apply for such a position.

Respectfully

C. H. Merriam

Dec. 24, 6

Mr. H. Stephens

Anyhow Sir:

I have your letter of the 16th inst. and suppose the loss of skins will be along in due time.

Shall be glad to compare your Thermophila mice specimens of Neotoma and Mallis, & will return the specimen as you request.

If by "my book" you mean my Synopsis of N. Am. Mammals, I regret to say it will not be out within the coming year. I am constantly overburdened with outside work which keeps me far behind with my own work.

Somehow as you sent me some big-eared bats from Yuma. Among them was a solitary specimen from the Colorado Desert. Can you tell me just where it was found?

How in regard to the new Dipodomys

the description of which you have sent to Prof. Cope. Since you have described it yourself, what will you charge for all the specimens you have of it, counting one as type which you may want to retain for your own collection?

Will write you when type has arrives.

Yours truly,

C. Hart Merriam —

P.S. When do you start for Denver Col.?

Dec. 28, 6

Mr. Chas. D. Walcott.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your request to send Mr. Rothbun a copy of Dr. Steineger's report I beg to state, as I said on a similar occasion last winter, that it is not in my power to obtain these publications except by purchase at the regular price, and I see no reason why I should buy books for Mr. Rothbun when I have not enough money to get what I need for my own use.

Respectfully

C. Hart Merriam —

Jan. 8, 7

Messrs. W.H.H.C.S. Grimsley
Raleigh, N.C.

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of the 4th inst. is before me, together with the seven specimens, for which I enclose $2.10.

The three is Blarina brevicauda carolinensis. It is one of the easiest of all animals to catch in bands and mouse traps. I often used to catch half a dozen in a single night.

Please be a little more careful in preparing small skulls. The majority of those you send are injured in some way, which detracts from their value. Be careful, also, not to ~~overstuff~~ your skins. One of these harvest mice is as big as a Peromyscus, and the Peromyscus is considerably stretched.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Jan. 8, 7

Egbert Bagg Esq.

My dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 5th inst. I beg to say that I would like $3,000.00 insurance on skins & skulls of mammals and $2,000.00 on books & household furniture, all contained in a brick house, No. 1912 Lunderland Place, Washington, D.C. The house is three stories & basement, and is heated by a furnace. It is about 22x50 feet, & fronts north. It is one of a solid block of similar houses, three on one side & four on the other. On the opposite side of the street from these houses is an open space absolutely vacant. There are no wooden buildings of any description in the neighborhood.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

P.S. When does the insurance expire on my stuff at Crescent Grove? The Policies are in Utica Bank.

Jan. 10, 7

My dear doctor:

Your letter of Dec. 29th came several days ago, but the skulls were not sent up from the dentaceum till today. I have been in bed with a severe bronchitis most of the time for the past ten days or I should have hurried them up a little.

Enclosed please find my check for $30.00, the amount named in your letter.

Have not unpacked them far enough yet to come to the skulls but will write later in regard to them.

You ask if I want any more. Yes, I would like as many again, but would like to make a suggestion in regard to the method of handling them. So far as I have unpacked them I notice that they have been allowed to rot a good deal before they were dryed.

It is a great mistake as it discolors the bone & it can not be made white afterwards. If the brains are washed out with a syringe as soon as practicable after the head is cut off, & the bony mass of temporal muscle removed roughly, the skulls can be thoroughly dried at once and will never smell. It is by all odds the best way, and is very little trouble when a trapper "gets the hang of it". The only danger is the liability of cutting the coronoid process of the jaw in cleaning off the temporal muscle.

I am very much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken in my behalf.

Dr. Fisher & I have been flogging away on our annual report & on some special bulletins which we hope to get through in time to issue this spring.

Yours truly,

C. Hart Merriam.

Dr. M. K. Turner
Cammendville, New York.

Jan. 10, 8

Dear Doctor Brackenridge:

I owe you an apology for tardiness in acknowledging your letter of Dec. 28th. At the time it came I was sick in bed with a severe bronchitis from which I have not yet recovered.

One page is tight squeezing for tabular remarks on the characteristic mammals of North America. I have more than enough written, but can cut it down to fit the place reserved for it. Have not forgotten the economic aspects of the case.

Do you wish me to arrange the matter on characteristic species under geographical or animal headings? That is, shall I treat of arctic species & species of the several zoo-geographical regions of N. Am.; or of characteristic 'hoofed quadrupeds', carnivora, rodents, &c &c, afterwards specifying the regions inhabited by each? The latter plan I have followed, but

2

it is not difficult to change the arrangement if you prefer.

In regard to the illustrations I will write later.

Replying to your questions I beg to say: Coues's & Stearns "New England Bird Life" is a fairly good book as far as Eastern species are concerned. But for descriptions of species for purposes of identification Ridgway's new Manual, now in press, will be far ahead of anything previously published. It will be profusely illustrated.

My book on Mammals will not be out within a year.

Goode's History of Fisheries cannot be had from the Smithsonians or Fish Commission. It may be obtained from members of Congress, and from the Govt. Printer at cost of printing (I think under $3.00).

3

This book of Goode's contains an article on the Rainbow trout.

In regard to the literature of this fish, I have had refish from Dr. Reed's list in the Fish Comm. Report the enclosed list of synonymy with references. It is not supposed to be exhaustive, but it is all I am able to lay hands on at present.

Hoping it may be of some service,

I remain, Very sincerely yours

C. Hart Merriam —

Jan. 20, 1

Dear Doctor Turner:

Thanks for yours of the 13th

I will take (if I can get them) 50 skulls more of each of the species sent before at same price, except Muskrats. For Muskrats, muskrat, I can't afford to pay more than 10 ~~to~~ each. I already have between 2 & 3 hundred of them.

I now have upwards of 800 skulls in all.

Cold weather has been abundant here this winter, but snow has not kept the ground white much of the time.

Answer
My study for
C. Hart Merriam —

Dr. W. H. Turner.

Jan. 20, 1

Dr. J. A. Allen.

Dear Sir:

Your postal card of the 6th inst is at hand. The mouse came some time ago. It is a true ~~Mouse~~, but is so different from the ordinary Mus musculus that I would much like a skull of good specimens with skulls for comparison.

Glad to know that you will send me specimens of the Pocket Gopher and Meadow Mouse. Can you procure Shrews or Mountain Rats (Neotoma) in your neighborhood?

Enclosed please find a copy of my directions for preparing skins & skulls. Kindly send me a specimen or two for criticism.

Yours truly,

C. Hart Merriam.

Jan. 20, 8.

Rev. Dr B. Henry
Macon, Miss.

Dear Sir:

I should have replied to your letter sooner but have been sick. I do not care for large things, such as wolves, foxes, coons, or mud rats, though I would like a pair of Beavers and Wild Cats, and also Badgers. In fact, at present I do not care for many skins except those of Mice, rock squirrels, & short-tailed white-backed skunks. I also does not affly to skulls, as I will take skulls of almost every kind of mammal.

Last winter the skunk skins you sent smelled pretty strong. Now it is easy to kill skunks without permitting them to smell if you catch them in box traps, & let them crawl into a tight box when caught in steel traps. The best way is to saturate

Jan. 21, 8

William Dart, Esq.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 16th inst. has reached me, together with the box of skulls. But why on earth didn't you label the skulls? They are not worth half as much as if they were marked for sex, but since you have been to so much trouble in preparing them I will pay you about as much as if they had the necessary data.

If I remember rightly, you still owe me about ten or twelve dollars on the gun deal. This I hereby cancel, and I enclose my check for $12.00 in payt of balance in full for the present lot of skulls.

If you would like to continue to collect for me I shall be glad to have you; and will pay for cleaned skulls the prices named on the enclosed

a piece of old rag in bicarbide of carbon & put it in the box. Then anesthetize your animal without breaking a discharge & if the box is tight the mill die in a few minutes. I have killed many in this way.

Do muskrats seem into you? If so I would like half a dozen.

Very truly yours
C. Dart Merriam

8? list, furnished the sex of each as stated.

Please remember me to Shiffert, Wood, and other friends -

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

PRICES OFFERED WILLIAM DART FOR CLEANED SKULLS. (Jan. 1887).

Bear	$1.50
Fisher	1.00
Otter	.50
Porcupine	.50
Fox	.50
Coon	.30
Skunk	.30
Marten	.25
Mink	.25
Weasel	.25
Woodchuck	.25
Muskrat	.20
Flying Squirrel	.20
Red Squirrel	.15
Chipmunk	.15
Meadow Mice	.10
Red-backed Mice	.10
Shrews of all kinds	.10
Rabbits	.20

The above must be labeled with sex.

Jan. 25, 8?

Dear Doctor Merchenthal:

At last I have finished the ms. for you zoography, but it is as much of an elephant that I hardly know what you will do with it.

I have cut it down as much as I can without omitting certain groups altogether. My plan has been to run over all the larger groups of N. Am. mammals, mentioning the more characteristic and peculiar genera. I have thought it best to affix in parenthesis the generic name as that the student can see even if the animal he is reading about if he cares to look it up in special works. The full scientific name (generic & specific) is given in only a few instances, such as the Bison, Musk, Mountain Goat, & Bighorn. Remember, I do not insist on the

retention of any scientific names, and you are at liberty to omit them if you think best. You are at liberty also to cut down the MS. in any way that suits your purpose; only when you do that please return the matter not wanted so that I can make use of it elsewhere.

I had hoped to say something about the birds and their nests, but the size of the mammal chapter so appalls me that I dare not undertake it.

In compliance with a wish expressed in one of your early letters, I have said more about the Buffalo than any other species. If there is too much you can cut the discourse.

A word in regard to the illustrations: as pictures, all are pretty enough, particularly Beard's. But the animals they illustrate are not always well chosen, considering how large a number of important groups are not figured at all. For instance, in the plate on Articulates, no less than five creatures are given, but not a single insect or other of the multitude unfigured; and an entire plate (the most beautiful of all) is devoted to the Anemones & Jelly-fishes. So again with the Protozoa, where three large figures (178) are given to

closely allied forms. And it seems to me that instead of crowding four or five large salamanders into one plate, it might have been possible to illustrate some of the other primary divisions of vertebrates which are not represented in any of the pictures.

Carey's plates are not nearly so good as Beard's. In the one on the Buffalo, the nursing calf's attitude is about the only really commendable feature. And I can't imagine why he struck three crows on the fair Buffalo's back. Is it not enough to have extermination staring one in the face, without anticipating the end by placing on the still living animal the crows that will fight over the carcass?

The other mammal picture is poor. Not an animal in the lot & a half resembling it can be called good. And those points really

ought to be changed in the engraving before the plates are printed. I refer to the points of the horns in the outside and female sheep. on the outside, the nearest horn should be curved towards its fellow. The horns of the female Bighorn are at least a third too long.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam—

P.S. Serviceable as is the bulk of the enclosed 19 pages of type-written manuscript, plural skeleton, dotted pointing, and the pages are very open, & that the matter in type will not fill much space—
comm

Washington, D.C.
Jan. 28, 1887.

Mr. John B. Lewis

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 25th inst, together with the sample hair, reached me this morning.

If you will send the fossil fragment of a jaw I will try to identify it for you. Flesh never becomes petrified.

The mink skins are very good for a beginner, and with a little practice I think you will make excellent specimens. The skulls are very nicely prepared.

The skins are stretched a little too long, and the fore-feet spread out a little too much—they should be close to the neck.

I don't want any more house mice, but would like at least 10 of every other kind of mouse you can catch. Of some species I shall want 20 or more, and will write you which when you send samples.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam—

Jan. 28, 7

Mr. Leo. K. Chuvid
Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 24th inst has this day come to hand. So you are in Dakota!

Yes, I would like some mammals from your present headquarters, and also some from Montana in case you get there. You may send me half a dozen each of the smaller species about Dickinson with a list of all you can secure, & I will give you an order.

I would like two Badgers.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

Jan. 30, 1

Mr. John J. Snyder
Stockton, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 19th inst. came several days ago, and the specimen of Bassaris has now arrived. It is, indeed, a beauty, and I am very much obliged to you for it. I have just soaked it up and removed what was left of the skull, and put a heavy wire into the tail, which at the same time was straightened.

I wonder if you would not like to spend some of your spare time collecting and preparing mammals for me? On the supposition that you would, I herewith enclose directions. I want all kinds of mice, squirrels, and gophers. If you care to undertake the job I will send you my price list for specimens of various sizes. Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

P.S. Do you want bats?

Jan. 29, 1

My dear Lieut. Breimard:

Birdwhistle has just given me the package you left with him for that purpose, - hence please pardon my seeming negligence in not acknowledging it sooner.

I suppose the enemy egg came from Cayer. Do you remember when the guillemot's eggs were collected? Let me assure you of my appreciation of your generosity in giving me these relics of your arctic experiences and conquests. I prize them very highly and shall endeavor to preserve them as long as I live.

Birdwhistle has at last secured a position as Inspector in the New York Customs House. Sorry to lose him, but glad he has a better place.

Thanks for the Schufeldt clipping. I had not seen it. It is very characteristic.

Mrs. Merriam joins me in kind regards, and in the hope that your new post will prove pleasant and profitable.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

Lieut. David H. Breimard
5th Cav., U.S.A.

Feb. 2, 1

Brimley Brothers!

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of Jan. 31st & two skins came today all right. Am glad to note improvement in the skins & skulls.

I find that I have as many specimens of ~~necessary~~ from you that I do not need any more. Still, if you care to send ten more good specimens at 25 cts. each I will take them. Of the other species of mice you may continue to send all you collect till I notify you to the contrary.

Please put the total length & length of tail on the back of the label, as in enclosed sample.

Very truly yours

C. Hart Merriam -

To
C.S. & H.M. Brimley
Raleigh, N.C.

Jan. 31st 7

A. O. Niccack Esq.
Crawfordsville, Ind.
Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 27th inst. I beg to say that I should be glad to receive from you a series of the small mammals of your vicinity if you can prepare them satisfactorily and we agree as to price. Enclosed find a copy of my directions. Please send me two or three specimens (say of mouse, wood-rat, & salamander) for criticism and I will then send price list.

You might send, at the same time, a list of the kinds of mammals you can secure.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

BRIEF DIRECTIONS FOR PREPARING SKINS OF SMALL MAMMALS

For the Museum of Dr. C. Hart Merriam.

Skin all mammals as soon as possible after death. Lay the animal on its back and make an incision along the middle of the belly from just behind the fore legs nearly to the vent. Be careful not to stretch the skin while removing it, and exercise great caution in skinning around the eyes and lips, which parts are easily cut. Skin as far down on the feet as possible, but leave in all the bones of the legs. Remove the bone from the tail by pulling it between the fingers. Take out the skull, being careful not to cut or injure it in any way, and wash out the brains; number the skull with the same number that is attached to the skin, and dry it in the shade. Never put arsenic or salt on a skull, but use powdered borax, if necessary, to prevent the remaining flesh from decomposing. Remove all fat from the skin and cut off any tags of flesh that may adhere to it.

In cleaning off blood or dirt that may have soiled the hair, an old tooth brush and a liberal supply of corn-meal will be found most serviceable.

Poison all parts of the skin with dry arsenic, or better still, with a mixture of powdered arsenic and alum in the proportion of four parts arsenic to one part alum, being particular to put an extra supply in the feet and tail. Put a wire in the body, letting it extend to the tip of the tail, but be careful not to stretch the tail. Use annealed iron wire of as large size as will easily fit into the tip of the tail. In rabbits, foxes, and wildcats put wires in the hind legs also.

Stuff the skin to its natural size with cotton or tow (never use wool, feathers, or other animal substances); sew it up along the belly and place it flat on a board to dry (belly down), with the fore legs extended in front and parallel to the body, and the hind legs and tail directed backward. Attach to each skin a label bearing the same number that is marked on the skull. On this label should be stated the length of the animal (from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail, the spine being stretched for this purpose); also the sex, date of capture (name of month should always be written in full), locality, and name of collector.

All skins should be thoroughly dry before they are packed. They should be wrapped carefully in cotton and packed in small wooden boxes. Cigar boxes do very well for the smaller species but must be strengthened by a thin piece of board across each end. They can then be sent by mail.

Dec. 4, 1

Secretary Merrill:

I am very much obliged for the Mammals just recd., and also for the corrections of habitats of birds as given in the A.O.U. check list. We have had many such, all of which will help to make the new edition represent more truly the actual distribution of our species.

Where were the skeins collected? They are not labeled.

What did you do with the skulls of the bird? They are not in the box and the skins are worthless without them!

I cannot for a moment admit that the Arctic Life Zone occurs west of the Rocky Mts., but it is impossible to do anything with bird genera without skulls.

I noticed that you do not know

have to make a mammal skin, & therefore take the liberty to enclose a copy of my directions — such as I send to all of my collectors.

Bendire's Thrasher, which you are liable to find at Klamath, particularly in snowy fleecy, is more than double the size of those sent.

The Pocket Gopher sent in Thursday taxidermy-specimens — not typical.

I would very much like to see the feral house mouse, & Bruicola, from Klamath.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Feb. 10, 8

Wm. Worthington, Esq.
Shelton Id. N.Y.
Dear Sir:

Thank skin & skulls came yesterday. On receiving and opening the package my first impulse was to return it, but I finally decided to keep it, since you have been to the trouble of preparing it for me. But if you prepare any specimens for me in the future please bear in mind that they must be made up according to the type-written instructions I sent you sometime ago. It is not my purpose to buy left, green skins and make them up myself, as I did this skunk. Moreover, skunks should be so killed that they will not smell. This is easily done either by drowning or by anesthetizing them with bisulphide of carbon, which costs but 25 cents a pint, & a pint would kill all there are in Shelton Id. if properly used. Enclosed find my check for $2.50 in full for one of Dingman & Merriam

Feb. 9, 1

Mr. A. B. Baker
Kansas, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 5th inst. arrived today, together with the loss of specimens.

In sending large boxes in future please ship by freight instead of express, to avoid heavy charges.

I am sorry to see that the taxidermist's idea prevails in all your skins. You do not seem to have been able to throw off the idea that these skins are not to be mounted, but are to remain exactly as they are as colored specimens. In the following particulars they are all wrong for my purposes: tail split open; tail bound in between hind legs; soles of feet slit in more than one line & left gaping open; fore legs pulled in under body and tied together (instead of extended along the sides of the body); skins rubbed & dried on their backs or in paper tubes (as in the case in the Badgers, Rockit Gopher, Arvicolæ, etc.) instead of being placed flat on their bellies

to dry. I think I called your attention to these points two years ago, and sent you a copy of my directions for making skins. If I did not, I am at fault. Write to me & you will find a fresh copy. On the theory that these skins are to be softened and made over they are all right.

The dozen specimens of Arvicola austerus sent are worthless to me because their skulls, with a single exception, have all been gnawed (apparently) by mice. In most of them the occipital region is absent. If you can dispose of them elsewhere I will return them by mail at once; if not, I will give you a dollar for the lot since you have been to the trouble of preparing them.

One only of the three Sitkamys has a perfect skull; and one of the Rafer's skulls is badly smashed.

Enclosed please find my check for $36.20 - the amount of your bill minus $5.2, the price of the Arvicola.

Two of these coyotes are beauties.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam —

Feb. 16, 1

Brother Clint:

About two weeks ago I wrote you, but having read no reply fear the letter miscarried. I did not then remember your address, but have since learned it.

Some years ago, I think about five, you told me you wanted a good microscope but did not have the money to get it. I said I thought Mr. Dayan would sell you mine cheap at cost, & if so I would buy it for you & you could take your own time in paying me for it. You replied that this would be a great favor to you. So on going home I at once saw Mr. Dayan and purchased the microscope, paying him cash for it, & sent it to you without delay.

As you have never said anything about paying for it, I suppose you

are not using it & that you do not care to keep it. If this is the case I wish you would be kind enough to return it to me by express at once, as I have a chance to sell it here, and I am in need of all the money I can get just now.

Yours
C. Hart Merriam

In 3 & 5 of Feb. 11th, did you note, by a slip of the pen, any "red deer" when you meant white deer (Rangifer caribou)? Surely Nipissing is not a likely locality for the red deer (Cervus virg.).

Feb. 16, 1

Dear Thompson:

Your letter of the 9th, postal of the 10th, & box of specimens are before me.

Rabbit skins, according to my notion, should be made of entire legs stretched out exactly as in the case of other small mammals. The legs must be wired, as stated in my type-written instructions, which, by the way, you do not seem to have paid much attention to. The legs in most of your skins are too much crumbled and sideways, so that the skins take up altogether too much room in the drawer. The legs never should project beyond the line of the side of the body.

Your hard bodies are a great mistake in all cases, & are particularly objectionable when you leave a great gaping opening in the belly — aft amidships. This is unsightly makes the skin, & lets the arsenic spill out.

2

Your method of labeling is simply atrocious. Why don't you invest in a few cents worth of parchment paper, cut it into strips, and thread with good strong thread such can be tied firmly to the leg in a christian manner?

And finally, you ought to take just a little trouble in packing & not jam a lot of flying squirrels & hemispheres promiscuously into a rough box & trust the same to the cruelty of the expressman.

True is Mrs., not Prof. Miss eng. at the side the daughter of Dr. Brewster, a most estimable girl.

What price do you set upon diagram of flying sq.? It lacks date & locality.

Your Blessing appears to be brevicauda. Can tell better when the skull is cleaned.

The Sorex probably is personatus, but no man can positively determine the species of Sorex till Dobson's monograph appears.

The Arvicola I can do nothing with till its skull is cleaned. Apparently it is not riparius.

The Reithrodon is typical michiganensis.

Now in regard to identifications such required study & time, as in Arvicola. I am

3

Where are English Sparrows found in Manitoba?

far too busy to do this sort of thing for fun now. It takes about as long to make a satisfactory determination as it does to describe a new species, & I have at least half a dozen new species awaiting description. Your first paper (Mammals of Manitoba) contains several errors and many assumptions. And you more and several other errors by taking advantage of information supplied by me, for which I have no credit.

Now in regard to your coming 'revised list' I will either have nothing whatever to do with it, or I will revise the technical part of it & record credit for the same — as you like —

Very truly yours

C. Hart Merriam —

P.S. I have two skulls (nos. 64 & 65) of Thomomys without any data, or accompanying skin. The value of these last is $10.00, which I enclose. C.H.M.

February 16th, 7

Mr. J. G. Wainright.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter just received I beg to state that I have about all the mammals that are likely to be obtained in Illinois, and that I never purchase specimens "in the flesh", or in the shape of "skins ready for stuffing". The only material I have any use for consists in well made cabinet skins, with perfect skulls to correspond. If you care to undertake the preparation of such, and will send a list of the species of your vicinity, I will send directions and let you know what I want.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Feb. 24, 7

Prof. W. E. D. Scott.
Dear Sir:

Your letter reached me about ten days ago, and the box of specimens, after the delay usual to Southern railways, has finally put in an appearance.

I must confess to considerable disappointment on opening the box, for, instead of the small specimens of mice & wood rats for wh I asked, I find a lot of huge specimens which will not fit into any of my cabinets, and not a single one of which is prepared in accordance with my directions.

The flying squirrels' skulls are chopped off behind, rendering the specimens worthless. The skunk has no skull, & the skin has no wire in it & looks as if it had been singed. The squirrels & otter are made up in grotesque attitudes, highly effective from a theatrical standpoint,

February 24th. 7

Prof. W. L. D. Scott,
Tarpon Springs, Florida,

Dear Sir:

I am glad to learn, from your recent letter, that there is a project on foot to establish a Zoological Station in southern Florida. Such a station, if in charge of a Biologist of recognized ability in this line of research, could not fail to be of great benefit to Science and would be an ornament to the State.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam —

but absolutely unfit for cabinet specimens. But it is useless to criticise, as you already have my type-written directions telling exactly how a specimen ought to be prepared. I should be very glad to get a large number of skins of the smaller mammals prepared properly, but don't want any more of this kind of material. I am anxious to secure all kinds of mice, wood rats, chipmunks, water rats, etc. in skins skulls, and bats in alcohol.

If you care to dispose of the specimens sent at the following terms I will take them; otherwise will return at your expense.

3 Mink cats	@ 1.50	= $4.50
1 Otter		3.00
1 Skunk		.75
2 Fox Squirrels	@.50	1.00
1 Salamander		.25
4 Flying Squirrels	@.10	.40
		$9.90

I have already paid $3.75 express chgs. on two shipments.

Very truly yours C. Hart Merriam —

Feb. 28, 7

The Hon.
Warren Miller
Chairman Senate Comm. on Agriculture.

Dear Sir:

I am informed that the Senate committee on appropriations, acting under a misapprehension of fact, have reduced my salary from $2,500. to $2,250.

From the enclosed copy of my commission you will see that my present salary is $2,500., instead of $2,000. as wrongly suppose by the committee.

Should the amendment in question pass in its present form, great injustice would be done me, for the unavoidable inference would be that the members of the committee are dissatisfied with my work as Chief of the Division of Economic Ornithology & Mammalogy.

Very respectfully
C. Hart Merriam

March 1, 7

Prof. Kinsley.
Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 19th ult. and box before me. I am very glad to note improvement in the preparation of the specimens. This lot is number #4.35 which I received.

The small shrew is not the same as the other, and I would like a number of them.

When your skins are placed on the drying board please see that the legs are not spread out sideways beyond the line of the sides of the body. If ably so manely, a pin will control it.

If you like, you may send me half a dozen ~~two months~~ eagles in the field at 25¢ each.

With thanks yours,

E. Hart Merriam.

Prof. J. S. Kinsley
Raleigh, N.C.

March 1, 7

Brimley Bros.
Dear Sirs:

Your letter of Jan 19th ult. and box of skins before me. I am very glad to note improvement in the preparation of the specimens. This lot is number #4.25, which I enclose.

The small skins do not run the same as the other, and I would like a number of them.

When your skins are placed on the drying board please see that the legs are not spread out sideways beyond the line of the sides of the body. If a fly is unruly, a pin will control it.

If you like, you may send me half a dozen two inches eagle in the field at 20 cts each.

Yours truly,
C. Hart Merriam.

H.H. & C.S. Brimley
Raleigh, N.C.

Mar. 2, 7

Mr. Arnold W. Butler

My dear Sir:

Yours recd. The Lynxtamias was a female.

I have selected for you, & shall mail tomorrow, three skins & 1 skull of Arvicola austerus (typical) from Loma. Could not find two skulls belonging to two other skins, as much of my collection is still packed away.

You are welcome to these specimens — do not think of returning them.

Very truly yrs

C. Hart Merriam —

P.H.H
Butler

March 2, 1

Mr. Wm Lloyd
Saint Jack, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of Feb. 5th has only just reached me. I am very glad to hear from you again, and to know that you are willing to help me in collecting small mammals. It is true that I have need a large collection from central Texas, but I am still in need of many things from your region and southward.

Enclosed you will find a copy of my directions for preparing skins & skulls. Please send two or three skins for criticism first, so that no time will be lost in putting up good material in an unsatisfactory manner.

March 3d 7

Dear Doctor Johnson:

In reply to your letter this day rec'd. I beg to say that I accept your offer for my galvanic battery and electrodes, & you may pay for it in quarterly payts. as you propose.

The electrodes are in the glass-covered case in the room adjoining my office. I will write Mattie in regard to the matter.

Charley & John arrived here last evg. & are now at the capitol seeing the sights. The weather is balmy & spring like - not warm.

Yours truly

C. Hart Merriam -

March 5, 7

Mr. J. L. Hancock
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 3d inst. has just reached me, together with the squirrel of which you speak.

The animal is the common Say's Squirrel or Chipmunk (Tamias lateralis) of the great Plains & westward to the Pacific. It is of no particular interest or value to me, hence I return it by the mail.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam -

March 10, 1

Mr. A. B. Baker
Barnes, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Yours of Feb. 25th to hand before me. Let me assure you once for all that the skins and skulls which I purchase are neither for sale or (save in rare instances) for exchange, but for my own personal collection, which now consists of about 5,200 skins and nearly 4,000 skulls; and further, that I never have any skins mounted.

Of course the skins you sent could be relaxed & made over properly, but this would cost nearly as much as the specimens are worth.

However, since, as appears from your letter, I neglected to send you my typewritten directions long ago, the fault is mine & not yours. But in future you will know just what I want.

In regard to splitting tails: I have skinned at least a thousand mammals

and the muskrat is the only species thus far met with whose tail I have been obliged to incise, and I find an incision an inch & a half long underneath, commencing at the constricted portion, answers every purpose.

Will send you the syringe by mail in a few days.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam —

9, 7

Mr. H. Stephens
San Bernardino, Cal.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of Feb. 24th came nearly a week ago, but the box of skins did not arrive until yesterday.

All the specimens sent are in excellent condition. Enclosed please find $9.25 in payt. for the same.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam —

March 10, 7

My dear Gen. Greely:

Since you have been kind enough to consent to deliver, on Saturday of this week (March 12) at 4.15 P.M., the first of the regular course of 'Saturday lectures', the lecture committee and the authorities of the National Museum are anxious to help you as much as possible in the way of furnishing appropriate stage scenery.

Do not be surprised, therefore, if on entering the room you find the platform occupied by an Eskimo, and surrounded by a group of northern ers consisting of musk ox, polar bear, enemy skulk, ptarmigan, and perhaps a few others.

Any suggestions from you in regard to this matter will meet with immediate attention.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

Gen. A. W. Greely
Chief Signal Officer, U.S.A.

March 10, 7

Brimley Brothers
Raleigh, N.C.

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of the 4th inst. and specimens are before me, for which I enclose $2.20.

The shrew of which you speak is Blarina cinerea, which seems to be the prevailing small shrew from this latitude to Florida. I am trying to get all I can of them in order to determine the relationship it bears to Blarina carolinensis.

Glad to know that the mice are fond of peanuts. In northern New York beech nuts make the best bait I have tried.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam.

March 12, 7

Dr Thompson:

I am very much surprised at the unreasonable tone of your letter of Feb. 22d in regard to the skins sent me by you a short time before. Am I not at liberty to criticise and object to poor skins without being taken to task for 'vituperation'? And I kept the good and returned the poor, as you suggest, I could not have retained half a dozen.

If the price was unsatisfactory to you, you were not bound to accept it for I would of course return the specimens at your request. But it is clear from your letter that you place an exaggerated value on your skins. In future times I will mention some of the prices I pay those of my best collectors for

3

simply beautiful skins — each of which is worth at least twice as much as a poor skin of the same species.
The prices I pay these men for perfect skins with perfect skulls are: —

Flying squirrels	.40
Red "	.50
Arctica mica (Arvicola	.25 - .30
White footed " (Neofiber)	.25 - .30
Meadow " (Mus musculus)	.20
Short-tailed Shrews (Blarina)	.25

For skeletons I pay from half to two-thirds as much as for skins, but as a rule do not want them at all except in the case of bats & small shrews.
Your skins at these rates, allowing the largest price for perfect skins in each case, would come to exactly $7.33.
In other words I have paid you for this lot of poor skins just $2.33 more than I am in the habit of paying for good skins of the same species.
You may draw your own conclusions.
In regard to hard vs. soft bodies I can only repeat in substance what I said before, namely, that my skins

3

which are acknowledged by all to be the best mammal skins ever made are stuffed with loose cotton, and that I have never seen a skin stuffed with a hard body which looked half as well. Hard bodies are proper for mounted specimens in cases, but not for skins to be handled. It is time enough to condemn on my method when it has been equalled — not before.
In your letter you say: "I am sorry to be obliged to omit the Arvicola from Rat Portage, but suppose it must go." I don't understand what you are driving at there as you have sent three specimens of Arvicola from Rat Portage and a third from Carey in lieu of the Neotoma.
In regard to the Jaffray matter: I believe I have a printed article by Ernest E.T. Seton in which Sciurus hudsonius is said to do great damage in Manitoba; and if my memory serves me correctly I pointed out the fact to that author, that the species probably was Sciurus Fallaxius.

* Ernest E. Thompson, Esquire.

March 12, 7

Dear Thompson:

The remarks contained in your letter of Feb. 22d concerning drawings of mammals do not tally very well with our last conversation on the subject.

In the first place I have distinctly said from the start that I should never want drawings of mammals in the same genus, & but very rarely two in the same family. This would defeat the object of my book, for I shall not be allowed enough figures to illustrate even all of the larger groups. This disposes of the two for business.

Now in regard to the kind of drawing. When you were here last winter I told you over & over again that the publishers of my book would not consent to wash drawings, because of the cost of reproduction, but insisted

March 13, 1

Dear Thompson:

In reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo: I will take the cuts at your price — $10.00 for the lot. The drawing (diagram) of flying squirrel comes to just $3.25, making 13.25 for the batch. Am I to understand that these are models to make by yourself? or are they electrotypes? or what?

In the case of the mule deer I think the antlers are unusually large. Are the tails of mink etc and lynx on the same scale?

Did you draw the caribou head from a living animal or a stuffed head? The nose does not look right to me.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam.

that all must be in line so as to reproduced by photoengraving.

Furthermore, I told you that I was not prepared to go to any more expense personally in the matter of drawings but would leave that to my publisher whose business it is to pay for the drawings. And right here I may add that I have not yet received from them (or anyone else) one cent in the way of refunding the very considerable amount of money I have already laid out for drawings.

If I had the means I would gladly go ahead with these illustrations, but unfortunately I have not the cash.

However, I am glad to say that the time is rapidly approaching when I hope to be able to find you a very liberal order, if you wish it. In connection with my official work I expect soon to arrange to have a number of drawings made, particularly of such species as are of economic importance.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam.

Ernest E. Thompson.

March 14, 7

Mr. Henry K. Coale
Sec. Ridgway Ornithological Club.
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Your notification of my election to corresponding membership in the Ridgway Ornithological Club has this day come to hand, and I hasten to assure you that, in accepting this membership, I hold myself in readiness to promote the interests of the club whenever within my power.

Very respectfully,
C. Hart Merriam

March 13, 1

Dear Thompson:

This, I believe, will complete the series of letters for re today and today:

Now for your MS. on the Mammals of Manitoba. As I wrote you a few days ago, I shall not undertake to revise this manuscript; nor do I want my name to appear on the titlepage at all. I have not read more than one-fifth of the text, and do not intend to till I see it in print. My connection with it consists solely in the determinations of species, for which I wish to be held responsible except where I have not seen specimens. Hence I have changed your language in the preface in regard to this matter.

Am very glad you have given the Indian names.

2 2
2he will add much to the value of the paper.

under Cariacus virginianus you have posted on a printed slip stating that the average might of this deer probably is not much over 100 lbs. If you will consult my Mammals of the Adirondacks you will find (Page 119) that I give the average might of bucks at 200 to 220 lbs. which certainly is low enough, and I have seen bucks that might class to 300 lbs.

You will observe that I have struck out a lot of hats and chasms. The reason is that many of them have no existence except as synonyms, and there is no reason to suppose that the others reach Manitoba at all. It is highly probable, however, that Neotoma nectinegans will be found to be one of your common rats.

It is much to be regretted that no specimens have reached me of the two species of Zamias mentioned, and of Neotoma palustris.

The Arctic Zone I have struck out as extra limital beyond the possibility of doubt.

Nov. 13 | 3

The silver, black, & cross foxes are nothing but individual phases of coloration, exactly similar to the case of the red & gray Sciurus hudsonicus, and the black and gray squirrels.

I have grave doubts of the occurrence of Arvicola austerus in Manitoba. Of two hundred or more specimens I have received from Minnesota and Wisconsin not one is austerus. Coues' record of the Pembina specimen is taken from Baird & based on the type & only specimen of Baird's A. cinereus. But as I have no Dakota specimens of Arvicola I do not feel prepared to express a positive opinion.

Arvicola riparius will have to stand, for the present at any rate, for the material at hand is not sufficient to warrant the separation of the Manitoban specimens from the common eastern species. Have been two days in coming to this conclusion.

4

It is a fact that several species are included in Dakota specimens. The Dakota, Minnesota, Eutamias lucasgaster fallidus was described by C. L. Merrick from specimens collected by him at Lake Traverse and the country about the sources of the Minnesota and Red de Sioux rivers.

The skins you have sent me are Sorex forsteri, S. personatus, and Blarina brevicauda. The latter are of the form described by Baird as talpoides.

The nomenclature of the entire article is the best I can suffix at present, but it is not final, & several of the names (notably those of the Mice) must be changed some of these days.

The sequence of species is not exactly in accord with the latest views on the subject, but I do not know that you care to make it so as this would involve considerable change in arrangement.

The other changes I have made will be clear to you when you look over the MS.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam —

Ernest E. Thompson
Toronto, Canada.

March 14, 7

Dear Doctor Chapman:

Chipmunk rec'd. thus morning. It is the Kila chipmunk (Tamias quadrivittatus dorsalis). I should be glad of a good skin accompanied by the skull.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam —

P.S. The known habitat of the above beast is New Mexico, Arizona, and a small part of Nevada.
C.H.M.

March 15, 7

Prof. C. L. Herrick
Dear Sir:

I am anxious to see specimens of your Onychomys leucogaster fallidus, and if agreeable to you will exchange one or more skins with skulls of the typical Kansas form for your Dakota 'fallidus'.

Respectfully
C. Hart Merriam

Mar. 16, 7

Mr. John B. Lewis
Enhanks, Ky -
Dear Sir:
Your card reed. I shall be glad to get good skins of all the kinds of mice you have sent except the house mice. Rats should be shot with no. 10 shot, and should be preserved in alcohol. After they have been in alcohol a week they can be wrapped in cotton and sent by mail.

Yours

C. Hart Merriam

March 18, 1887.

Mr. Gustav E. Stechert

Dear Sir:

I have just recd. the separate sheets of the 3½ vol. of Seebohm's List of British Birds, together with your bill of $9.00 for the same. There must be some mistake about the price, for $9. is about the cost of the three volumes without the plates, and if I must pay for the entire set I might as well have them.

Enclosed you will find my check for $9.00.

Respectfully -

C. Hart Merriam -

March 18, 1887.

Dear Mr. Meadowcroft:

I was very much surprised and delighted to find in my mail, this morning, your kind letter of the 15th inst. together with a copy of your long looked-for 'Birds of Ontario'.

The work is so much larger and more complete than I had expected, and contains a surprisingly large number of species.

Of course I have been able only to glance through the book, but I can see that we shall find much in it during our work here, and I am very glad to give it a prominent place in my ornithological library.

Congratulating you on your success,

I remain Yours truly

C. Hart Merriam

Wm. Meadowcroft
Manitou, Ont.

March 18, 1

Dear Thompson:

Your letter of the 15th inst. came this afternoon, together with the weasel. But why did you not send the skull? In winter pelage it is almost impossible to determine the species from the skins alone. So please send the skull at once, and if you have a skin of any kind in summer pelage send it also. I do not think there is any doubt that the animal really is P. longicauda, but we ought to be sure.

The Mss. goes back to you by this mail, but there are several points which I do not feel satisfied about.

There is too much doubt about the Lorenfine to make it safe to use either name.

I fear the printer would stumble over some of the names, Mrs. Merriam

has made a type-written list for his benefit. You will find it enclosed.

I would like to see a proof of the paper, but do not insist if I know it may be impracticable.

If you chance to have a skull of a Manitoban Porcupine try all means send it at once as that we can settle that species.

I have sent to a man out west to get specimens of Red River valley Neotoma Leucogaster in order to determine the validity of the northern subspecies, but they have not yet arrived

Fox skins should be made up exactly like small mammals, only flatter & not so full.

I ... at last

C. Hart Merriam

Have spent all my spare time on your list for the last 10 days & nights. C.H.M.

If you have a genuine Lutreius ermineus send it to me for identification. Remember that summer pelages are best for identification of species.

MAMMALS OF MANITOBA.

... macrotis Say.

virginianus Boddaert.

... canadensis Erxleben.

... americanus Jardine.

... lucifer carlbo K...

... Rich.

... Merill.

... max Allen.

... Platyrhynchus Richardson. Richardson.

... hyperborea desmarestii Allen.

... richardsoni Sabine

... " " leucogaster Mitchill.

... " " Sabine

... hudsonius Pallas.

... Synaptomys cooperi hudsonius Coues.

... Castor fiber canadensis Kuhl.

... Fiber zibethicus Linn.

... Erethizon epixanthum Brandt.

... Arvicola ... Ord.

... " ... Allen.

... " ... sonorii ...

... " ... and Kennicott.

... Allen.

Retake of Preceding Frame

has made a typewritten list for this benefit. You will find it enclosed.

I would like to see a proof of the paper, but do not insist as I know it may be impracticable.

If you chance to have a skull of a Manitoban porcupine try all means and send it at once as that one was rather too small.

I have sent to a man out west to get specimens of Red River valley Neotoma and Onychomys, in order to determine the validity of the northern subspecies, but they have not yet arrived.

Your skins should be made up exactly like small mammals, only flatter and not so full.

I hope all is well at last.

Yours sincerely,

C. Hart Merriam.

Have spent all my spare time on your list for the last 10 days or more.

If you have a genuine Lutrinae specimen send it to me for identification. Remember that Mammals are sent for identification of species.

Original Defective

MAMMALS OF MANITOBA.

[illegible] macrotis Say.

" virginianus Boddaert.

Cervus canadensis Erxleben.

Alce americanus Jardine.

Rangifer caribou Ko[illegible].

[illegible]

[illegible] arctic[illegible]s Gmelin.

[illegible] Arctomys [illegible]max Gmelin.

[illegible] Tamias striatus lysteri Richardson.

10. " asiaticus dorsalis Allen.

11. Spermophilus richardsoni Sabine

" tridecemlineatus Mitchill.

" franklini Sabine

14. Sciurus hudsonius Pallas.

15. Sciuropterus volucella hudsonius Ord.

16. Castor fiber canadensis Kuhl.

17. Fiber zibethicus Linn.

18. Erotomys [illegible] Vigors.

19. Arvicola [illegible]rius Ord.

[illegible] leucopus [illegible]milian.

" leucopus sonoriensis [illegible].

" michiganensis Aud[illegible]bon and Bachman.

[illegible] [illegible]us Linn.

24. [illegible] pallas.

25. Thomomys talpoides Richardson.

26. Zapus hudsonius Zimmermann.

27. Erethizon dorsatus Linn. (or epixanthus Brandt).

28. Lepus americanus Erxleben.

29. " campestris Bachman.

30. Ammospha cinerea Beauvois.

31. Vesperugo serotinus fuscus Beauvois.

32. Neosorex palustris Richardson.

33. Sorex forsteri Richardson.

34. " personatus Geoffroy.

35. Blarina brevicauda Say.

36. Condylura cristata Linn.

37. Ursus americanus Pallas.

38. Procyon lotor Linn.

39. Lutra canadensis Turton.

40. Taxidea americana Boddaert.

41. Mephitis mephitica Shaw.

42. Gulo luscus Linn.

43. Mustela pennanti Erxleben.

44. " americana Turton.

45. Putorius vison Brisson.

46. " [illegible] ermineus Linn.

24. [illegible] dactylinus Pallas.

25. Thomomys talpoides Richardson.

26. Zapus hudsonius Zimmermann.

27. Erethizon dorsatus Linn. (or epixanthus Brandt).

28. Lepus americanus Erxleben.

29. " campestris Bachman.

30. Atalapha cinerea Beauvois.

31. Vesperugo serotinus fuscus Beauvois.

32. Neosorex palustris Richardson.

33. Sorex forsteri Richardson.

34. " personatus Geoffroy.

35. Blarina brevicauda Say.

36. Condylura cristata Linn.

37. Ursus americanus Pallas.

38. Procyon lotor Linn.

39. Lutra canadensis Turton.

40. Taxidea americana Boddaert.

41. Mephitis mephitica Shaw.

42. Gulo luscus Linn.

43. Mustela pennanti Erxleben.

44. " americana Turton.

45. Putorius vison Brisson.

46. " [illegible] erminea Linn.

47. Putorius longicauda Baird.

48. " vulgaris Linn.

49. Vulpes velox Say.

50. " fulvus Desmarest.

51. Canis lupus griseo-albus Sabine.

52. " latrans Say.

53. Lynx canadensis Desmarest.

March 19, 1887.

Prof. N. H. Winchell
State Geologist
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir:

I am very anxious to buy, borrow, or beg a specimen of the mouse from the Tremont Lake region which was described as new, under the name of Onychomys leucogaster, var. fallidus, by Prof. C. L. Herrick, in the 13th annual report of your Survey, for the year 1884, pp. 183-186.

I want to compare the animal with the typical form from Kansas. Prof. Herrick writes me that the specimens are in your charge.

An early reply will greatly oblige,

Very respectfully yours

C. Hart Merriam.

March 19, 1887.

Mr. C. L. Boynton
Highlands, N.C.

Dear Sir:

In looking over some of the small white-footed mice you sent me I am surprised to find three immature specimens which look very much like the Michigan mouse, a species not previously known from south of Illinois.

I write therefore to ask if you will not be kind enough to catch and send me a number of these mice as soon as convenient so that this important question may be settled.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

March 20, 1

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Thanks for two more of your manuscripts, which Mr. True handed me awhile ago.

I wonder if your Neotoma taylori is not ochetodon humilis? I have just compared a Texas specimen of the latter with your description and find that they fit one another like a duck's foot in the mud — skull measurements and all. Check it if you can't discover a groove in the upper incisors, and let me know the result.

My collection has grown to be the best in the world so far as the smaller North American mammals are concerned. It now numbers upwards of 3200 skins and 4000 skulls; and I hope to be able to devote more time to it in future than in the past.

A few copies of some of my mammal papers go to you by this mail. More will follow shortly.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

March 23, 7.

Mrs. Charles Coman
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Dear Sir:

I have just received a letter from Mrs. M. E. Spencer stating that you would like to collect small mammals for me. I am sure I should be very glad to have you do so, and enclose the necessary instructions.

Please prepare a few samples — say of mice, wood rats or salamanders — and send me by mail for criticism. I will then send you my price list.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam —

March 28, 7

Messrs. H.H. & C.S. Brimley:

Dear Sirs:

Your recent letter is before me, together with 14 mice, for which I am much obliged and enclose $3.10.

Please wash your skulls together in soft paper instead of scattering them through the cotton which latter method is risky. Also, please hold your specimens till you have at least 20 before sending, as it is a nuisance to enter so many small lots.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

April 3, 7

Dear Mr. Bryant:

Many thanks for your letter of the 24th ultimo, and for the pair of *Neotoma* just received. These specimens are very interesting. They seem to be (from superficial examination) somewhat intermediate between Baird's "*leucodon*" and true *californicus*. I would be very glad to get a good series of skins with skulls, for study. Can you send me 20 good specimens at 35¢ each? The larger specimen with your check may be true *californicus*. I would like specimens of all the *Neotoma* group found in your neighborhood.

The photo. *allows* to be a *Perognathus* but I can't be sure.

April 3, 7

Mr. W. E. Lloyd,
Paint Rock, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 25th ultimo is before me, together with the three mice and the pressed bat. Bats should be preserved in alcohol. After they have remained in strong spirits for a week or two they may be removed and sent by mail. They should be wrapped in a piece of cloth and put into a small tin box. Spirit boxes and baking powder boxes do very well. In all cases the label should be firmly attached to one of the hind legs.

The mice skins are poor, part of which is due to the hard bodies. Mammal skins should always be stuffed with loose cotton. The tail mice should be wrapped enough to fill out the tail to its natural size. Care should be taken not to stretch the skin or tail. Those sent

You once gave me a very small mouse from Mt. Diablo. I would be glad to give $1.00 each for a dozen more. It is an Echinodon, with ground upper incisors.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

are stretched a good deal.

The lips should be placed close against the sides of the body. These are sprawled out in such a way as to prevent close packing.

I will send you a few samples which please return promptly.

Please send a few samples of bird skins with your nest, and mark on the labels what you think them with.

Did you use lead or aniline pencil? I never knew alcohol to mash off lead pencil numbers.

Should think you might find two species of Melanerpes, according to the Macon.

Does Empidonax minimus ever breed in Texas? Ref. Cooke says you have found it breeding there, but I think he must be mistaken.

The largest mouse sent is Neotoma (Onychomys) leucogaster. It must be common with you. Can not be sure about the two Texas others, (also a Neotoma) till I see better specimens + study their skulls.

The skulls if two of these are broken or cut. Please be very careful not to injure the skulls.

Rats, unlike plants, are not easy to identify from pressed specimens. When you send me a lot of alcoholics I will try to find you their names.

When you learn to trap small mammals successfully you will have no difficulty in securing all you can possibly skin. Bowl traps, jar traps, mouse traps of several kinds, and small steel traps bring in quantities of material. As a rule bird's heads and small nuts or acorns are good bait. Poisoning by grain or otherwise is not a good practice because most of the animals who die can not be found. Most small mammals are nocturnal, + hence not often seen, but easily trapped. Small tin box traps (not over 5 or 6 inches long) baited with meat or pork rind are best for a beginner.

4

I would like to get some of your black water rats; also every other species of rat and mouse found in Concho county. I particularly want Black-footed ferrets. Would like a pair of Badgers, and a pair of each kind of skunk (probably you have 3 skunks). Skunks should be caught in ordinary box traps & killed by forcing bi-sulphide of carbon into the trap. For many of these they may be drowned. Under no circumstances should they be permitted to smell.

Would like a pair of each kind of cat found in Texas. Also a few Brazil dogs & a pair of each kind of rabbit and squirrel & gopher. But you had better send sample specimens again before undertaking to prepare many, in order to be sure to make acceptable skins.

Would like to see a pair each of your Armadills and Tarantula.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

April 9, 7

Dear Mr. Bowinot:

In reply to your very kind letter of the 6th inst. asking me to take part in the Ninth Meeting of the Royal Society of Canada, to be held in Ottawa the 25th of May next, I beg to say that it will give me much pleasure to comply with your request, and that I shall be most happy to avail myself of your very kind invitation to make my home with you while in Ottawa.

With compliments to Mrs. Bowinot

I remain,
Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

Mr. Jno. Geo. Bowinot
Sec. Royal Soc. of Canada.

April 12, 1

Dear Doctor Quackenbos:

The proof sent me several days ago & herewith returned.

I must confess to considerable surprise and disappointment at the liberties which have been taken with my Ms. I do not refer to the numerous omissions of portions of the original manuscript, but to the changes and interpolations that have been made, and which literally bristle with blunders. I do not know who is responsible for all this, but it looks wonderfully like some of Rossiter Johnson's attempts to display knowledge he never possessed.

When you asked me to prepare this article, I suppose your chief object was to secure an accurate and trustworthy handling of the subject; but from the changes, additions, and references made in

the proof and would infer that the principal object in view was the amusement of the children and the filling of their heads with erroneous information.

These remarks must not be construed to refer to the omission of technical matter to which I fully consented.

Most of the books of reference introduced are wholly unreliable. More misleading matter than Figuier's 'Ocean World' and Nicholson's 'Manual of Zoology' could hardly be found.

And in all candor I am forced to add what favorable advantage was suffered to follow the substitution for my plain list of Marshallsian nomenclature (p. 185) of the present unnatural and incongruous arrangement of complete and trifold:

The physicians blunder make under their diagnosis (bottom of p. 101) affable me.

If my name is to be connected in any way with these pages I must see another proof.

Very truly yours,

E. Hart Morrison.

April 12, 7

Dear Doctor Turner:

Your letter and the skulls came all right, and I have had a lively time in cleaning up those fossils. The box was so 'loud' when it reached the house that my wife took the top off to see if there was not a dead baby in it!

It is a bad plan to recline skulls with the temporal muscles on & brains in for this reason: it is impossible to tell whether the skulls have been smashed or not. Amongst those, one of the coons and five of the foxes had the vault of the cranium badly broken.

Enclosed please find my check for $8.25 which is I believe is correct.

I cannot make out what you say about the Kootenians using fox skulls

for flour mate. Would like a little more light on this interesting + to me novel subject.

We have had a pretty cold and stormy winter for Washington, but it is not enough & dry enough now. Sunday and yesterday this thro. was 85° in the shade, & it may reach the same height today.

Fisher, who is at my elbow, joins me in kind regards.

My truly Yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

Personal.

April 11, 7

Col. Alex. Macbeth.

My dear Sir:

Many thanks for the Squirrels. They are the common Gray Squirrel. What I want are Red Squirrels and Fox Squirrels, such as you told me about last fall.

Now as to another and more important matter. I have long felt that if called upon for a statement of your time account I should have great difficulty in rendering a statement which would show any reason for your continuance on our rolls. In other words, I have very little to show for the money expended — nothing at all commensurate with the time you have been in our division.

And now, to my dismay, I am called upon by the investigation committee of which Senator Cockrell is Chairman (concerning which you doubtless have seen numerous press notices)

for an explicit detailed statement of the character, quantity, and quality of the work of each employee by months. This is a difficult enough undertaking in any case, but in years it is impossible. So I must call upon you to help me out by sending me as full an account of your work from July 1, 1886 to Mar. 1, 1887 as you are able to prepare, and as soon as possible.

And I would suggest that in future it would be well to spend a portion of each day in some systematic work connected with some of the numerous branches of our investigations. A complete collection of the small mammals would throw light on the distribution of species. Also positive information concerning the birds which breed with you; and concerning the various blackbirds which affect the rice-fields.

We are encountering more difficulty than I expected in arranging for experiments with bird stomachs.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

April 14, 1

Tyler & Rutherford
1226 – F. St. N.W.

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed please find my check for $60.00 in payt. of rent for use of house 1912 Lamberton Place for month ending May 15th inst. This completes the period of my lease and I am preparing to move into a small house for the summer.

If you have no tenant in view, and, rather than allow the house to stand empty, will take a monthly rental of $20.00 for the summer, I will remain, subject to 30 days notice to leave if you secure a purchaser or tenant. Otherwise I shall vacate the premises promptly May 15th.

Respectfully,
C. Hart Merriam –

April 15, 1

Brimley Brothers.

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of the 9th inst. and box of specimens are rec'd. Your identifications are correct.

5 of these skulls are badly injured — two cut out behind, apparently in removing brains. If you used a syringe to wash out the brains you would save both time and skulls.

Enclosed please find money order for $6.00 in payt. for three.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam —

April 14, 1

Rev. John D. Lang
Cincinnati, O.

Dear Sir:

Yours [illegible] and specimens all read. The skins shall receive immediate attention but will have to wait. Until you receive [illegible] be careful not to touch the [illegible] [illegible] of the skulls.

Have no [illegible] from and but one kind of insect [illegible] ! I want all the kinds you have except house mice. Also would like some of the kind with thistles, particularly the adults with bright crimson rump and [illegible] sides.

Don't waste any more flying squirrels and rat [illegible] and pair of [illegible] the birds must always be sent in any direction, but always direct straight to Cabinet where they belong.

It is a good plan to stick the lips together securely - not tight enough to draw down the [illegible] of the nose.

will send you labels soon
Enclosed find draft for $2.75 in payt.
for skins.
Shall be glad to receive another
lot from you soon. I want
a large series of good skins of mice
and shrews from your locality.
My best
C. Hart Merriam

April 17, 1

Dear Thompson:

I spent four evenings & parts of several days in working over that mixed matter, but was unable to arrive at a conclusion. And the Nat. Museum material did not help.

There is no difficulty in distinguishing skulls of mexicana & longicauda from those of eastern carminus (as called). The differences are numerous and marked. But your single skull from Manitoba is so intermediate that I hardly know what to call it. A skin in summer pelage is needed to settle the matter, though this skull leads me to suspect that the Manitoba form really is intermediate — which I did not believe before, as I have regarded the two as specifically distinct.

2

Ofenak gave has several days ago & was glad to find it prefectly packed. Took the birds to Ridgway.

All of the skins from British Columbia I have returned, and trust you have received them all right. They were so full of hatching mites & grubs that I was afraid to put them near my skins. And the kit has so badly damaged by moths or dermestes. You will have to be very careful or you will lose all your collection from this cause, now that warm weather is coming on. I am now going over mine with bisulphide of carbon.

In return to the Selkirk Hills skins: the Neotoma is the largest I ever saw - he must have been the great grandaddy of the tribe. The Peromys has the small a tail for flemineus.

I imagine the flying squirrels were taken at different attitudes. The big-tailed one killed by a cat is of the occidentalis pattern. The Sciurus seems to be fossomatus, but I cannot be sure. The Spermophilus

3

cinereus is not typical of any of the subspecies, and I would greatly like to get some good specimens with skulls from the locality from which it came.

I have not yet published my instructions for making mammal skins. A typewritten copy is enclosed.

I am perfectly willing to exchange good mammal skins, but the trouble just now is that it is difficult, & in some cases impossible, to find the skull belonging to a particular skin, as fully 2/3ds of my skulls are packed up in boxes preparatory to moving.

Thanks for offer of notes on feed of Sperreans. We shall be glad to receive all information possible on this subject, but are in no particular hurry.

Glad to know you are going to the coming meeting of the Royal Soc., as I shall then see you. Am very sorry Mearns will not be there— he has gone to Vancouver.

Will send your labels in a day or two. They are too small for exhibition specimens (intended for the public to read through glass cases), but are just right for museum cabinet specimens — the "study collection". It is a great and common mistake to use too big labels. Will send you samples of Nat. Mus. labels in use on exhibition series.

Some western college gave Allen the Ph.D." since you left N.Y. I still call him Mr., but put Dr. on the envelope & in print.

Re returns & labels: I always give measurements on reverse of label, but leave room on string and for both skin & skull numbers, i.e., [illegible] I don't know any such measurement as that of "body". Head + body together is what I take.

Allen's letter is returned herewith.

5

Now as to the skins sent: I find 2 foxes, 10 rabbits, 4 muskrats, 2 red squirrels & 3 remains of pocket gophers. Dear me, but let I make the following cash offer:

2 foxes	4.00	$14.00 + $2.00 express chgs. ph. = $16.00
10 rabbits	6.00	
4 muskrats	3.00	
2 sq. + 3 gophs.	1.00	

These are long prices for me.

Glad to see that this lot of skins is very much in advance of any previously sent by you, as far as quality of make up goes. Some of them are very heavy, but otherwise they are good skins.

Can you supply bibliographical reference for this article you enclosed from the Worcester Farmer? Kind of publication & date will do.

April 20, 7

Herman Bailey Esq.
Elk River, Minn.
Dear Sir:

The box of specimens sent by you some time ago reached me day before yesterday, in good condition. Of the small chrems I have now 14 skins and 16 skulls. Two of the skulls are numbered 636. Can you correct the mistake?

What did you do with the skulls of the other coafer's mice? I particularly want skulls of three species, and skins without skulls are of small account.

Your measurements of chrems and mice do not strike me as taken with extreme care.

Please do not write so near the string end of your labels. In some cases I have not room to fill out the back of the label for this reason. The

117

6

Re- drawings:

Am trying to see what can be done in shape. & will let you know soon.

The mask of mouse & shrunk I wanted anyway, independent of my manual, though I helped one might be used there as frontispiece as I told you last year.

It is impossible for me to furnish the list you ask for, as I have said over and over again, till I have completed contract with publishers.

It is very easy for me to name what I would like to see represented, but that is no telling how many of these the publishers would refuse, in wh case I would have to pay for them out of my own pocket, which I am not able to do.

The fox is very pretty, but the tail is too long & too bushy. It is actually as long as the body, & very nearly as large around. Wish you would make a permanent habit of writing locality & date of specimen on all your drawings - in some these data are given.

The muskrat is beautiful & surroundings effective.

The coyote looks sick. It does not look as though it had been very lately. I wish you would write me what is wrong with it. I would like to see it as good (running skunk on belly?) as the fox.

enclosed sample & done correctly.
Please use better inks, write more legibly on labels, and make your numerals more distinctly. I have difficulty in reading some of them.
Your large weasel is not much bigger than many in my collection, and is exactly the same size as one you sent me collected in Dec. 1885. Its tail, however, is about as long as that of longicauda. I would like to get some of these weasels in summer pelage.
Have you been able to get any more light on the Squirrel problem?
Enclosed find money order for $13.25 in full for the present lot.
I have mislaid your last letter.
You may expect to hear from me again before long.
Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

Do you know of any better way to catch Pocket gophers than in steel traps?

April 20, 7

Mr. Chas. A. Allen
Nicasio, Cal.
My dear Sir:
Your letter of the 8th inst. is before me. The specimens came yesterday and are in excellent condition. They were well prepared and well packed, and came safely.
I am glad to get them and enclose $4.50, the amt. of your bill.
Wish you could send some more of those small moles (Gibbs' mole) that your children found by the school house.
These Pocket Gopher skins are the best mammal skins you ever made and are good enough for anybody.
Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

April 29 7

Rev. Ira B. Henry.

My dear Sir:

Yesterday I wrote you that your box had not arrived. Last night it came. It contains the best-prepared lot of specimens (excepting the mice) that I have seen from you. But the big skunk is not the kind I wanted. It is the short tailed, badger-like species, without any black on the back, that I particularly desire. Did you ever see another red squirrel like the one sent? It looks strange to me.

The skulls of the mice are so broken as to be practically worthless. There is so hardly a specimen in the entire lot from which one or both zygomatic arches are not broken. This is too bad, and is wholly unnecessary.

I wonder why you don't send more

kinds of mice? There must be field mice (Arvicola —) & several other species in your neighborhood. Of the 29 skins just received, all but 3 are Reithrodon and these three are house mice (Mus musculus) of which I don't want any more.

But I would like more of the Reithrodon and all other kinds if you will send good skulls. You ought to find a very small mouse with a groove running lengthwise of each incisor.

In what sort of a place do you get these mice?

Cannot just now put my hand on your letter in regard to these specimens, but if it contains anything requiring further reply I will write again.

If you get any more Rock Squirrels or Gophers I will take more of each.

Very truly yours
E. Nelson

P.S. Enclosed find a money-order for $32.50 in payt. for your last lot of specimens — E. A. & N.

Apr. 26, 7

Dear Thompson:

Your home-labeled reed. proof before this — also first batch of your labels.

Enclosed find money-order for $13.25 on square specimen dealt to date.

I am going to strike out Cuterius leucopus & insert D. ernimus in its stead, as the more conservative & safer plan for the present.

Will return galley proof as soon as reed —

In great haste,
Yours,
E. A. & N.

April 26, 1

Mr. Herbert E. Clark,
Amherst, Mass.
Dear Sir:

I am very much obliged for the copy of your "Birds of Amherst" which you have been kind enough to send me. It is well printed and neatly gotten up. But I can't imagine the essence for so unessential a performance as that of getting another man (& he not an ornithologist) to write half a page of preface and stamp his name on the title-page. Also a fifty. Still, if you are satisfied, the rest of the world ought to be.

There is little doubt that the "Red bird" of which you speak (p. 49) really was a Cardinal, & not a Tanager at all. Tanagers don't live in cages.

A question for record. If Dendroica coronata.
Very truly yours
A. Hart Merriam —

Over.

Washington, D.C.
April 26/07

Thurber Doctor:

I am very much obliged for your kind letter and for the enclosed $150.00, which I accept for the museum: first because I know you would feel hurt if I did not, and second because it is a fact that a bird is much more easily taken than a nest especially for the bird with one pair of eggs. I could not give up the specimen till the expiration of my leave, May 15th, I fear.

Also because, everything the bird and I want is for it. I have not taught the nestlings in six months as their mind is not sufficiently developed to understand. The bird is not "shut-in" the cage. The cage is open and the bird can go out and come in, and both would be much disappointed if they could not. I am sure you will see that I am right.

Yours truly,
W. Reed H. Mullin

your question asking about a place where a few weeks can be spent with profit ornithologically is hard to answer.

Anticosti, which you suggest, is difficult of access, and both Kennedy and I have been there. Still, it is an interesting place to explore.

A much easier and less expensive trip would be to the islands off the coast of the carolines, or the mountains of the carolines or Georgia.

C.H.M.

April 28, 7

Hen. y Holt & Co.,
New York City.

C. Hart Merriam

Dear Sir:

Your check for $12.25, in payment for five copies Adirondack Mammals sold during the six months ending December 31, 1886, has just come to hand, for which I am obliged.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

April 28, 1

Mr. Henry Holt
New York City.

My dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 25th inst. I beg to say that I am still accumulating material for my work on the Mammals of North America.

During the last two years I have published descriptions of a number of new species, and have prepared several synopses of groups, but have been too busy with official work to do much writing on the book proper.

Some additional drawings have been made, and I hope to be able soon to devote more time to the book.

The greatest hitch is likely to come in getting the drawings. There is but one man in America able to make satisfactory drawings of mammals, and it is very difficult to bring together the specimen and the artist.

Hence it would be advantageous to all concerned, and would save much trouble and many lamentations by-&-by, if we could come to an agreement now in regard to the number of drawings of animals, and number of figures of skulls to be contained in the work. Then I could give the artist a positive order, which I cannot do now as I cannot afford to pay for the drawings myself.

Shall you not be coming to Washington this spring? I would like to show you the material now in hand, and talk the matter over with you.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

May 3, 7

Dear Doctor Chufeldt:

On receipt of your letter of the 26th ult. this morning, I examined a pile of boxes supposed to contain birds' stomachs, and found the one containing the specimens you were kind enough to send, and for which I am very much obliged. If the letter which I found in the box had been sent in an envelope the specimens would have been discovered and acknowledged at once.

Thanks also for a reprint on "Veterinary Science" thus despised.

I have been pained, for some time past, by the character of the majority of your multitudinous recent writings. In many of them it is difficult to find a raison d'etat.

your effusion on "specific variations in the skeletons of vertebrates" as a typical illustration of the kind of cases I have in mind, and I have just written a brief criticism of it which I shall send to Science. If, instead of attempting to cover the entire universal matter a thin layer of ink, you would concentrate your time and energy upon some of the many real gaps in our knowledge, you would erect a monument to yourself and at the same time secure the admiration of your friends. For I must tell you in all candor that your many friends here, without a single exception so far as I am aware, deplore the course you are now taking.

With best wishes

I remain,

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

SHUFELDT ON "SPECIFIC VARIATIONS".

The last number of Science (vol. IX, no. 221, April 29, 1887, pp. 414-416) contains a paper by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, entitled "Specific variations in the skeletons of vertebrates". In the first place the title " specific variations" is a misnomer, unless Dr. Shufeldt deliberately intended to displace the familiar, long used, and descriptive term 'individual variation'--which exactly expresses the meaning intended-- by a new and confusing term which is not descriptive of this condition, and consequently is objectionable; and in the second place it is hard to see why the article was written at all, since it not only contains no new facts, but does not even present old facts in new clothes.

Dr. Shufeldt speaks of the well-known variations in human skulls, and then says: "It will be my object in the present letter to show that these differences are quite as marked among the species that go to make up the classes below man, as they are among the skeletons of the same species of men".

If, instead of preparing articles of absolutely no scientific value, the Doctor would make himself familiar with the writings of such authors as Hensel, Peters, Flower, Jentinck and others, it is reasonable to hope that he would cease flooding the current literature with such effusions as the present, for he would become aware that no fact in osteology is better known or more clearly recognized than that of great individual variation in the bony framework of vertebrates. And if, instead of attempting to ridicule the painstaking accuracy of his fellow-workers, he would supplement some of his own multitudinous papers by a few reliable measurements, or would determine the limits of individual variation in a single species, his time might not be less profitably employed than at present, and he might congratulate himself on having made an actual contribution to his favorite science, osteology.

C. Hart Merriam.

May 3, 1

Mrs. Henry Holt,
New York City.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of yesterday is before me.

The only book at all comparable to ours and I have in preparation is Coues's Key to North American Birds. Of ours book, four large editions have been exhausted, and a third is now in press. It is published by Estes & Lauriat, of Boston.

My book will not have so large a sale as this above because many more people are interested in the study of birds than in the study of mammals. At the same time there can be no reasonable doubt that, if properly advertised, the sale of my book will be large for a work on natural history.

May 3d 7

Mr. James W. Young
Ft. Wrangle, Alaska.

Dear Sir:

Our mutual friend, Mr. Henderson, tells me that you have a son who might be willing to help me in procuring a series of the small mammals of Alaska. I want skins and skulls of everything from the size of a lynx down to the smallest shrew or mouse, and of many kinds I would like a number of specimens.

In case time I act on the assumption that your son will collect for me, and therefore I take the liberty to enclose a copy of my directions for the preparation of specimens. If he will be kind enough to send me a few skins by mail, as samples of the kind of work he can do, I will

And this brings me to your remarks on the sale of my Adirondack mammals which book has never been properly advertised — i.e., has not been brought to the notice of the class of people who would be likely to purchase books of that kind. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that this work was originally published in the transactions of the Linnaean Society, and that the members of that Society need copies as soon as published. Furthermore, I gave away more than 150 copies (bound), and gave them, of course, to the persons who would be most likely to want the book.

I expect to pass through New York about the end of this month and shall try to see you at that time.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

at once find him an order, naming
prices, numbers wanted, etc.
Please send me a list of the
kinds you can probably secure.
I will send you by this mail
a sample skin or two for models.
Please return them.
Hoping to hear from you by
very next mail,
I am,
Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Personal.

May 5, 8

Mr. Vernon Bailey
Elk River, Minn.
Dear Sir:
By this mail you will receive your commission and accompanying official instructions.
In addition to the $40. per month which you will receive from the Department, I will pay you $10. per month personally so you will receive in all $50.00 per month besides all your expenses, which I think you will find sufficiently as well as agreeable.
I have planned for you a remarkably interesting trip and envy you in it. Would find almost anything if I could go myself.
You will find new mammals and new birds constantly after

2/

entering Dakota.

Your visit to Devon Lake is based on the assumption that you are personally familiar with the birds reported as breeding there, among which may be mentioned Larus Franklinii, Larus atricilla, Sterna forsteri, Telegramus sp., Anas strepera, Nettion sp., Clangula hyemalis, [illegible]

If you do not know these birds when you see them there will be no advantage in stopping at Devon Lake at all, and you may go direct from Round Lake to Dakota. You understand, of course, that the idea is to keep in good fruitful localities as much of the time as possible. I have so worded your instructions as to give you entire liberty to stop off wherever and whenever you find promising places, and to pass over places which prove unfruitful. I have so planned the trip, also, as to take you into the most interesting found regions

3/

of Dakota, and at the same time the regions characterized by most diverse physical conditions, as you will see later.

What sort of a collecting outfit have you? You will of course take plenty of arsenic and alum, and a good outfit of stakes. You can send all the specimens you collect direct to the office from the field. You had better ship a box on leaving each locality. I will send you a lot of tinclefes which you can stack on the boxes, & use for correspondence also. Take pains in packing your skins, particularly the geese ones, for you will have to send a good many before they have time to dry

4/

While I want some skins of everything you can get from the smallest mouse up to a coyote in size, yet I particularly want strong, that you have not already sent me from elk River. For instance, I don't want more than a single pair of striped gophers from each locality in eastern Dakota. But when you reach the arid regions you will find a small pallid race of this same species. Of this I want a good series. But you will understand all these matters from instructions, and I expect to correspond with you frequently.

By this mail I send you a blank book to use as a specimen catalogue (& will send it to record take instead of this one)

A large part of your journey will be made by stage & wagon, & some special trips on horseback and by boat. In all of these, as in everything else, be very particular about getting each specimen properly signed.

5.

Heretofore, you have not kept — or at least have not sent me — much in the way of field notes. On this trip it is essential that you keep full notes on the habits, food, etc. of all species, both of mammals and birds. You need not take the time to prepare skins of birds except in cases where you are not positive of the species, or where the locality is out of the known range of the species. Of the Horned Larks, you may come across one or more subspecies breeding. Of these you had better send a pair of skins of each form encountered.

Since the principal object of this trip is to determine the geographical distribution of species, you had better make a list of all the mammals found at each locality you visit, and if

6.

all the birds found breeding. On these lists mention only such species as the can be set down as. If you mention any others at all, do so with a query. Learn all you can of the range of the moose, Elk, and Black-tailed Deer. determine with as much precision as possible the boundary line between the eastern and plain Siannas.

It would be a good idea to save skins of the cactomys Caxatilis, graminus, and if the various breeding grounds you encounter.

Wish you would try to get a few good skins of adult Beavers on the trip. Get all the Woodchucks (Arctomys) you can in Dakota, and at least 15 or 20 Prairie Dogs. Have you any No. 0 steel traps? If not, I'll send you half a dozen.

Send any Gray or Fox Squirrels that you may find in Dakota, and a few from Round & Devil Lakes. Get these latter localities, and in eastern Dakota, you will find a Hudsonian

7.

Hudsonicus different from the one you have at Elk River. Get a Dakota ones, and has a slightly "puffy" appearance. I want a lot of them. Of course save all the Lynx skins you find.

In Dakota, get all the information you can in regard to the distribution of the Antelope.

Get all the bats you can conveniently and put them in alcohol. Record and of each kind of them in alcohol also.

Will send you a lot of tags for skulls. You will find them at Round Lake.

If you conduct the expedition in a manner satisfactory to both of us, it is not likely to be the last.

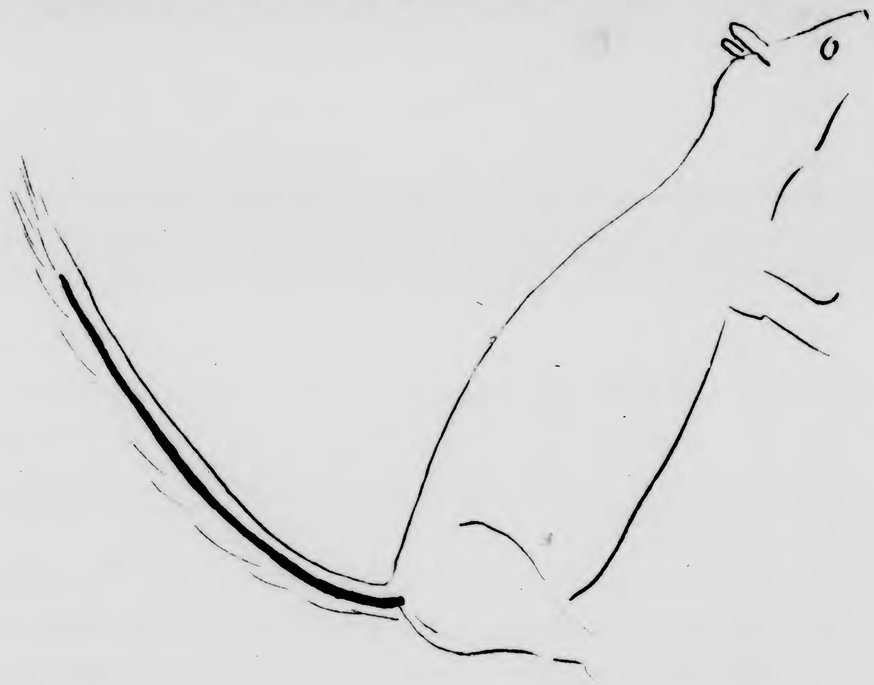
8. 4

Should it happen to you: I imagine you may not have enough money in hand to give you a fair start. If this is the case, telegraph me and I will send you some to Round Lake by Registered mail.

You will draw your salary the first of each month, but must sign duplicate vouchers first. You had better sign the enclosed ~~new~~ & forward them to me so that I can draw and send you your salary promptly on each pay day.

You had better, also, send in vouchers for your expense account at the end of each month. With these vouchers (find sample enclosed) you must send the accompanying sub-vouchers or bills which need not be in duplicate. The large vouchers must always be in duplicate, and must be receipted at the bottom before sent. With each must be sent an affidavit (blanks sent to Round Lake) which you must ~~sworn~~ before a Notary ~~Public~~ write in full about anything you have ~~spent~~ spent.

How to measure tails.



Always bend the tail back at right angle to the body.

Sent Vernon Bailey.
May 8, 1887.—exm.

May 10, 8

Dear Mrs. Allen:

Glad to hear from you again, but sorry you have not yet fully regained your former health and vigor.

While I think of it, please return the A.B.U. minutes I sent you. You can have them again later if you like.

What you say about giving up the dictatorship for the duke pains me, because I fear the thing will not be kept up to the present standard in any other hands. In fact, I am unable to see clearly what will become of it. Naturally, if not immediately, it would go to W. B. or R. R. and the question

at once arises, will return of them assume the engagement of additional shorthand work as the distinctive of the Dark Means? I confess the outlook is not promising.

Now in regard to getting material from my collectors: you are perfectly welcome to the results of my time & labor in teaching them to trap and prepare small mammals properly, and my service yourself or Liberty to forward notes from direct without reference to me. S. Stephens, C. A. Allen, and Walter Neale have completed my series from their respective localities for the present; and shortly I will turn over others to you.

Love & kindest regards to Mrs. Allen, & best wishes for [illegible] speedy recovery

Yr. ever Merriam

May 14, 1888

Dear Doctor Mackenzie:

Brief and map at hand.
Brief herewith returned.
Lidog two cuts have not been
corrected. That antelope's horn
is fearful, and the tumor on
the head of the Buffalo's tail
ought to be excised.

Am sorry also that
these crumbs have not
been allowed to fly from
the backs of the Buffalo,
where they have no business.

The complexion of this article
must be afflicted with an
uncontrollable diarrhea of commas.

the map fairly makes me sick for I see about two day's work in correcting it — which means no dinner & supper for me that month.

Now there are several things I want to know about this map first of which is: am I at liberty to correct it on this copy? If not, please send me at least two clean copies at once.

Another thing: in a given region (say Liberia for instance) the names of the various animals are scattered here & there as if each inhabited the place under which the name is written, while as a matter of fact the distribution of all is pretty much the same. In such cases my idea is to print a solid paragraph containing the names of all the mammals characteristic of the region. Same on lots of minutiae on this map.

May 16/97.

Mr. Wm Lloyd:

Dear Sir:

Your letter reached me several days ago, and the skins arrived this morning. They show great improvement over those previously sent, and I enclose $1.00 for them.

The skulls, however, are badly injured, as a part of the occipital portion has been cut away in removing the brains. Brains are easily removed by washing them out with a syringe.

The mammals sent are:

Mexican ground sq. (Spermophilus mexicanus)

Wood Rat (Neotoma - near mexicana but not typical)

White-footed mouse (Peromyscus Zarhynchus).

I would like more of all of these particularly the latter, with perfect skulls.

I would like in alcohol, half a dozen specimens of every species of bat you can secure in Texas.

I wish you would get into the habit of observing the food-habits of birds and mammals. It is not impossible that we may be able to ask you to make a special trip at our expense sometime, and in such case one of the principal things to do would be to record the food-habits of species, particularly in their relation to agriculture, horticulture and forestry. We know almost nothing of the food-habits of Texas birds and mammals.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

May 17, 1887.

Mr. H. D. C. Hedges
Editor of Science.
Dear Sir:

I confess to considerable surprise in learning, from your note of the 14th instant, that Science refuses to publish honest criticisms of articles which appear in its pages, however trashy (as in the present instance) such articles may be. Perhaps Science prefers notices of unlimited praise, fattened after its own reviews of C. C. Abbott's books — books which seem to be largely the product of an unwashed and superficial imagination.

In return to the present instance: since Dr. S. has never stood upon my toes, nor I upon his, it is hard to see where the 'personal' element comes

in with much force.

Is not the deliberate slur on Mr. Evans, contained in these very words of Mansfield's, "essentially personal"? And how about the Glazier-Lake controversy to which so much space was given awhile ago?

It seems to me that a certain class of articles cannot be criticised at all without bringing in some of the personal equation and when a man has a perfect diarrhoea of ink, into which he relentlessly bespatters our current literature, no one is to be permitted to raise a protest!

Very truly
C. Hart Merriam.

May 17, 1887.

Mr. Walter Hoxie,
Seymour, S.C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 12th inst. is before me, together with the skin of Arvicola pinetorum, for which I place 35 cts. to your credit.

I do not care much for the young otter, but will give you $1.50 for it if you cannot do better elsewhere.

Should like 20 good specimens of the Red-field mouse (Oryzomys palustris).

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

May 19th 7

Dear Doctor Dobson:

I am very sorry to know that you are not yet entirely well, but trust that the warmth of summer and genial climate of Easter may prove the needed panacea.

I refrained from expressing an opinion concerning the identity of "Lares canestri" with Staphylinus kenticii because I did not feel at all satisfied on that point myself. Unfortunately I have no Alesiahelix specimen of A. Kentuckii for comparison, but the chine are very much larger. Hope to secure an Alesiahelix during the summer.

Very truly yours,

A. Kent Morrison

May 20, 1887.

Dear Doctor Luerkenhaus:

Yours enclosing check for $20.00 rec'd., for which thanks.

Am trying hard to get the map corrections finished in time to send to you by Saturday eng., when I leave for Ottawa.

Have spent six solid hours a day on this map ever since I rec'd it home, and amfly no means done yet. Really it is a terrible job, and several times I have been on the point of throwing the whole thing up. Many of the names seem as if they had been shaken up in a hat and thrown at the map, & allowed to stick where they struck. Quite a number are fully a thousand miles from the region where the animal occurs, and a few are in the wrong continent!

I am not particularly enfriend at this, for I have feared as much all along. Believe I wrote you more than a year ago that this map ought to be made here under my personal supervision.

The boundaries of several of the primary realms will have to be moved hundreds of miles, and others altered to a lesser degree.

The bird map is so bad that I shall not attempt to do anything with it in its present shape. It must either be omitted altogether, or the map must be corrected for the primary realms and the bird names removed, in which case I will supply the names of those which are characteristic of those several regions.

Very truly Yours
A. K. H. Merriam.

May 21, 1887.

Dear Doctor Luckenbach:

I worked on your faunal map yesterday, and from 7 o'clock last evening to 1.30 this morning; and again from 8 to 11 this forenoon, and then packed and shipped it to you by express. Enclosed find receipt.

Have not had time to go over the ground as thoroughly and satisfactorily as I could wish, but have corrected the most glaring errors.

The directions for altering the boundaries of the faunal realms were enclosed with the map.

You can get the line of the limit of trees in Liberia from the last ed. of Berghaus Physical Atlas. For

2/

North America consult Richardson's zoögeographical map in front of the 3d report of the U.S. Entomological commission, 1883. Follow the realm lines, paying no attention to the minor divisions.

The type-written corrections for the names of mammals I will try to send you this evening, before leaving the city for Ottawa.

I expect to return about June 2d, and will then send you the names for North America, which I cannot possibly attend to today.

Please have the corrections made and the map shaved off as neat? I can have it again immediately on my return, as I do not expect to remain in Washington more than 3 or 4 days at that time.

Please have the names of insects (bee, silk-worm, etc) removed — they are more than useless here.

3.

Please remove the names of domesticated animals (dog, cat, horse, pony, sheep, goat, oxen, cattle, swine, mule & ass) wherever they occur. It is impossible to show the distribution of both wild & domesticated mammals on the same map (or at best, on this map), and these names only tend to confuse and interfere with the others.

In most cases the corrections I have made are those of grave errors only; but in a few cases I have removed an animal from a place where it does occur rarely, and have transferred it to a place where it is common — in other words, have put it in the central region of its habitat instead of the extreme edge.

4.

I to guess without saying that the surface for which a formal map is intended is the graphic representation of two primary zoögeographical areas, together with the characteristic animals of each. The present map will be a partial success and a partial failure. No amount of labor on my part can make it what it ought to be unless I start with a clean sheet. Still, I have put an enormous amount of hard work upon it and have nearly ruined my eyes in trying to make it respectable.

With time & three exceptions I have not touched the aquatic animals, and must disclaim all responsibility for this part of the map.

The birds I have already written about.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam.

June 1, 7

Dear Doctor Bowmont:

After leaving your delightful home Saturday, Dr. Rose and I journeyed together as far as Lost Dryden, where my father was awaiting my arrival. Spent Sunday and Monday at home, and Tuesday in New York City. Have just reached Washington and find a copy of your essay on Local Government in Canada upon my table — for which please accept thanks. Mrs. Merriam and I will read it with much interest and profit.

This little trip has done me a world of good, and I am very grateful to Mrs. Bowmont and yourself for your kindness and hospitality. Hope you will give us a chance to retaliate when our new house is finished.

With kindest regards to you all,
Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam.

The Hon.
J. C. Bowmont, LL.D.
Ottawa, Ontario.

June 3/17

Mr. Walter Rosie
Seagrove, S.C.
Dear Sir:

On returning to the city
after an absence of ten days
find your letter of the 22nd ult.
and the young otter awaiting me.
Enclosed find postal note for
$1.05 in payt. of money due you
for the otter and the line inclosed.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam.

June 6/97

Dear Doctor Avery:

Very many thanks for your kindness in sending the specimens just need. They are:
common mole (Scalops aquaticus)
house mouse (Mus musculus)
cotton rat (Sigmodon hispidus)?

Am not absolutely certain about the cotton rat till I cut its skull. It looks more yellow than usual.

Have mice after time long distances from dwellings. In fact, they seem to be two or three incipient subspecies now in process of differentiation -

June 2, 1898.

Rev. Leroy T. Weeks
Evangeville, Idaho.

Dear Sir:

I wonder if you would not like to collect small mammals for me for moderate compensation. I will give you 15 cts. each for twenty specimens (skins and skulls) of the Spermophile you call "ground squirrel", if properly prepared according to the enclosed instructions. I would like to get also, prepared in the same way, specimens of all the gophers, ground squirrels, rats, and mice of your region.

The mole unquestionably is a friend to the farmer, so far as its food is concerned, but it sometimes occasions harm indirectly, as you surmise.

Enclosed are the directions I 'swear by' for making mammals skins! Skull should be taken out & not cut anywhere. Arsenical soap should never be used.

Have sent 30 letters to answer this morning; so please excuse haste.

My best [illegible]

C. Hart Merriam

Dr. Wm C. Avery
Greensboro, Ala.

If you are willing to help me in this way, will you not kindly send me two or three sample skins for criticism?

Please wrap the specimens carefully in cotton and pack in wooden boxes.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

Personal. June 8/87.

Julius Kien & Co.

Dr. Sirs:

I have just made arrangements with Mr. Henry Sennett whereby he will furnish you with the bird of the wolf of the Miss. valley mentioned in the enclosed official letter, for $100. Do please confer with him for further details.

Respy.

C. Hart Merriam -

June 10, 7

Dear Doctor Mackenzie:

At last, I believe that one of the most unsatisfactory jobs I ever undertook is finished as far as advance work is concerned.

Enclosed is the map of N. Am. with the names of mammals scattered about on the flow of the stone map. The red lines indicate the limitations of the Faunal Realms.

Where return this map to me with the final map upon which it is to be cafied.

Whenever transfers the names to the stone map must be very particular to get them in exactly the right places. For instance, the camps, all very different kinds of the Hudsonian

must not be allowed to overlap the limits of these regions, where they must be bunched. So also, in the Rocky and other hilly, and on the great Plains, characteristic effects must be first where they occur and not a hundred or two miles away, which may be in a kind of region wholly unfitted for the animal.

I have taken great pains with this map and it contains considerable information that has never been published. Still, it is very unsatisfactory to me, and I hope the effect will not make it still worse.

Please send the map as soon as possible as I am anxious to get off.

Yours
J. Wallace Williams

Clementina B. Batchford, widow of
Henry B. Batchford

Have practiced medicine seven years. did not know deceased before about 1875, and then only slightly. Was first called to see him professionally January 11, 1882. Found him suffering from articular rheumatism and exhausted. Called again next day. Was then absent until the 24th, when I found him much worse. Saw him again Jan. 25, [illegible] 30, 31, Feb. 2 & 3. On Feb. 4th was called three times. Saw him Feb. 5th & Feb. 22. I was with him day and night. He died at 9.30 a.m. Feb. 22, 1882.

During my attendance the symptoms were irregular intermittent chills being followed by enormous rise in the temperature, the thermometer several times reaching 106° F. in the axilla.

Dr. H. Baldwin F. Spencer of Watertown, N.Y., frequently met me at the bedside of deceased in consultation; and the late Dr. Austin Flint Jr. also met us in council once.

The valvular lesions were of such a nature as to leave no doubt that deceased had suffered from organic disease of the heart for many years previous to his final illness.

June 12, ?

Dear Dr. Rees:

I am very much obliged for your kindness in replying at such length to the letter from Dr. Zwemer, and shall take the liberty to forward your letter to him, as I know he will be greatly delighted to be in possession of the information it contains.

Very truly yours
C. Kurt Dieterich

June 10, 7

Dear Doctor Merrill:

I am very much obliged for your letter of May 29, and for the specimens which have reached me in excellent condition. The skins of Iguanas subcrinitatus are very pretty. If not asking too much, may I ask for a couple of skins and skulls of your common Spermophile (S. Richardsonii) which Capt. Bendire tells me is very abundant about Fort Lapwai. I have never seen a specimen from Oregon, and am very anxious to get specimens to compare with those from Dakota

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

P.S. The Lynx canadensis seems to be typical.

June 13, 7

Brimley Bros.
Raleigh, N.C.
Dear Sirs:

Thanks for your letter of ten 11th inst. just recd.

In order to facilitate matters I herewith enumerate the specimens I still want from you:

10 Harvest Mice.
10 Red Mice
20 Sterna sinuosa
10 " carolinensis
10 Line Mice.

All others you are at liberty to send to Dr. Allen.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

Washington, D.C.
June 16, 1877.

Dr. R.W. Schufeldt, U.S.A.
Ft. Wingate, New Mexico.

Sir:

You have now had time to recover from the fit of jealousy that led you to do so foolish a thing as you did in writing the letters you sent to the Commissioner of Ind. and myself May 9th, and I ask you as a gentlemen to apologize for so for forgetting yourself as to stigmatize me as a liar because I was bold enough to tell you frankly, and as a friend (for I was presuming enough to include myself in that category), how your friends here looked upon many of your recent letters.

Regretting the necessity for asking an apology from you,

I am, &c.
A. Saint Mervienne —

SHUFELDT ON "SPECIFIC VARIATIONS".

A recent paper of Science (Vol.IX, No.221, April 29, 1887, pp.411-416) contains a paper by Dr. R.W.Shufeldt, entitled "Specific variations in the skeletons of vertebrates", accompanied by a cut showing two skulls of blackbirds.

The title "specific variations" is a misnomer, unless Dr. Shufeldt deliberately intended to displace the familiar, long used, and descriptive term 'individual variation', which exactly expresses the meaning, and substitute for it a new and confusing term which is neither descriptive of the condition, and consequently objectionable.

Dr. Shufeldt speaks of the well-known variations in human skulls, and then says: "It will be my object in the present to show that their bony differences are quite as marked among the species that go to make up the classes below man, as they are among the skeletons of the same species of men". Any one who would make himself familiar with the writings of such authors as Hensel, Peters, Flower, Jentink, and others, it is reasonable to hope that he would cease flooding current literature with such worthless effusions as the present, for he would become aware that no rare fact in osteology is better known or more clearly recognized than that of great individual variation in the bony framework of vertebrates. And if, instead of attempting to rival the painstaking accuracy of his fellow-workers, he would supplement some of his own multitudinous papers by a review of the reliable measurements so lustily decried, or would determine the limits of individual variation in a single species, his time might be less profitably employed than at present, and he might congratulate himself on having made a needed contribution to his favorite science, ostensibly.

June 18, 7

Mr. A. O. Miersch

Dear Sir:

I have received from you a common house rat, which is a very good skin except that the tail might never to be bent up over the body in any mammal, and this mind in it should be much larger. The fore legs should be kept close to the sides of the body, as ~~A~~ instead of as ~~M~~.

~~Otherwise~~ this rat skin is very satisfactory. I do not want but one or two more skins of house rats and mice; but of the wood and cotton rats, and meadow and field mice, I would like at least ten (10) skins of each species, and more than that number of some kinds. For these I will pay you 30-35 cts. each. For the squirrels I will pay 75 cts each; and for little striped skunk $1.00 each. I would like to get specimens

of every kind of wild mammal found in your region, up to a wild cat in size. Mice can be packed in sugar-boxes and sent by mail free by fastening one of the enclosed envelopes on the box. Larger specimens must be shipped by express.

Most kind regards,

C. Hart Merriam —

June 22, 7

Dear Doctor Johnston:

I have just had a letter written me by one of the best physicians here (Dr. D.W. Prentiss, Professor of Materia Medica & Therapeutics in the Columbian Medical College) in regard to the use of oxygen.

He tells me that the so called "compound Oxygen" treatment (originating in Florida) is pure quackery, and that the so-called comp. Oxygen is nitrous oxide gas! He says also that genuine oxygen gas has been experimented with a good deal in some of the New York hospitals, in the treatment of consumption, but has not found a success.

After giving him the history & symptoms of Mattie's case, he gave me the enclosed prescriptions, which he feels confident will do her good.

June 23, 7

Mr. John B. Sands
Corbenko, Ky.
Dear Sir:

Your postal & package have arrived. In drying skins, please try to keep them four legs nearer the body, so, [illegible] instead of [illegible].

In rough-cleaning skulls it is not necessary to take off the jaws.

When you send alcoholic specimens, they should not be taken out of the alcohol till ready to ship, and should be packed in a baking-powder box (any kind of tin box will do) so that they will remain moist. These are altogether too dry.

I would like more of both of these mice, particularly the short-tailed. Can you not get me a few Red-squirrels and Chipmunks? Please send me a list of all the mammals found in your neighborhood.

Enclosed find $2.50 for postal.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Boil a pint and a half of milk & let it cool. Dissolve 4 tablespoonfuls of Mellin's food in a little warm water and add to the milk. Then add half a pint of lime water. The mixture should be bottled & kept on ice. Of this a tumblerful should be taken every three hours, and no other food.

If this produces any signs of indigestion he suggests Lactopeptin and Bismuth (Bismuth subnit. 3ij; Elix. Lactopeptin 3ij s.- a teaspoonful before each glass of milk.)

At his suggestion, also, I will get & send you some of Wyeth's tablets of Bism, Strych, Kolad. & Spirac., one of wh he thinks ought to be given every night unless the bowels are too loose.

All of the above, of course, is to be given subject to your approval as the symptoms may indicate.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

June 24 ?

Dear Dr. Zueckerbes:

Your letter from Demopolis-Cuba Lida forwarded. I wrote you yesterday asking why the map had not been sent me before this, as I have seen nothing of it yet, and it is far too serious a matter to let go.

It is impossible for me to comply with your request to "figure out" the balance due me for work on that map for the simple reason that I do not expect compensation for one tenth part of the time & worry I put upon it. The only reason I touched it at all was that I saw it would disgrace my article and your geography — it was so grossly inaccurate. Hence I worked on it day & night intending to get it into as good shape as possible.

June 28, 7

Vernon Bailey Esq.
Meyhar Sir:

I was disappointed that you did not stay at Lisaston long enough to get a series of Keferumys (Onychomys) leucogaster + Sigmodon hirsutus + Neotoma floridana true. McChesney says that Onychomys lives in the Indian 'sheeks', pits, and caches. Your instructions call for particular notes on the food-habits of each species, which is said to feed extensively on grasshoppers. However, you ought to get plenty of them where you are, as Merrick found it to be common along the shores of Lake Traverse, and about the headwaters of the Minnesota and Red Lac Sioux rivers. He says also, that Neotoma micropus extends to the easternmost mound in that region.

Aside from the books in my own library, I had to consult others in the library of the Smithsonian Nat. Museum, Library of Congress, and Signal Office Library. Besides, the map cost me the loss of two trips (one to Sioux Quarry, the other to a field in New Jersey) which I should otherwise have made.

I cannot wait here all summer for it, and hope to receive it, together with my correction sheets, at the earliest possible moment.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

P.S. By all means write direct to Dr. Coues. His address is U.S. Nat. Museum.

2/

You ought to catch a lot of Cricket Sparrows in order to determine the eastern limits of the range of Ammodramus. Mr. Cheney found it at Lisbon.

Look out for the western limit of Blarina and Lemmiscus curtatus, and the eastern & southeastern limits of Lemmiscus quadriscutatus.

Get as good series as you can of the young in different stages (i.e., at different ages) of all the small mammals you find.

One of your labels had the male sign (♂) on one side, & on the other the statement "nursing". Try not to be absent minded.

That Otaleffus is a beauty — & very large. I have killed about 42 of them now.

I cannot send you any bird books. Coues's key is out of print.

Ridgway has just written a grand "Manual of N. Am. Birds", but it will not be out before Sept. or Oct. Your best plan will be to send us rough skins for

3/

identification whenever you find birds you don't know. Also send more bird's stomachs, particularly those wh may be interesting from an agricultural standpoint.

Get a good lot of Mesp. michiganensis & Onychomys leucogaster if possible. Also get woodchucks (Arctomys) whenever you find them.

If you learn anything about the distribution of the Elk, by all means make note of it.

In regard to stopping between Traverse Lake & Cambria. By all means stop once, & perhaps twice. Perhaps Newhead or Sargo would be a good region for the first stop, & Grand Marais for the second. I do not want to bind you to stop at any particular spot, but prefer you to

June 30, 7

Dear Dr. Buckenberg:

Your letter of the 27th inst. is at hand.

In regard to the Reindeer in Iceland: you must know that the animal is not indigenous there, and consequently it has no more right to a place among the native animals than the cat, dog, rat, mouse, goat, sheep, horse, and cattle, all of which are found in Iceland, having been brought there by man. The Reindeer was taken there but little more than a century ago (in 1770) when 13 individuals were shipped from Norway. Of these, all but 3 perished. These three were set at liberty in the mountains, & from them have sprung all the Reindeer at present

be free to exercise your own judgment as to locality. I would suggest that you go down as much of Red River as feasible in a boat — but this you will use your own discretion about, also.

It is singular you do not find hypsiprymnus rostrii anywhere.

Always pick up all the old skulls you can, in addition to the skins.

Before reaching Pembina I suppose you will find Dipus hudsonius Richardsonii. Try to determine the extreme S.E. eastern limits of its range. It is a "yellow leaper", rather than Franklinii & has a much shorter tail.

It would be a good idea for you to refresh your memory once in a while by reading over my previous letters.

Where shall I send your salary?

Wishing you much success, and an agreeable time —

Yours truly,

C. Hart Merriam —

inhabiting Iceland.

Of course I want to see the map before it is engraved. Otherwise I fail to see the use of seeing it at all. "After the horse is stolen lock the door" &c. A full-size photograph would answer. Be sure to have my corrections and putting map of North America returned to me with the corrected map. Please have this done as soon as possible.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

July 7th. 7.

Dear Jos. H.

There must be something very pernicious in the atmosphere of the Connecticut valley in the latitude of Portland & Middletown. At any rate it seems to have had a very demoralizing influence upon my wife, and me a reasonably sensible and truthful woman when she went there. It lessens my humiliation somewhat to know that this same harmful influence, whatever it may be, affects others as well as Mrs. M. For Barnum tells me that no less distinguished a personage than the late President of Wesleyan was afflicted in a similar manner.

It is gratifying to learn, however,

that the permanent residents become acclimated after a time; for this gives me courage to hope that Mr. Mr., who, apparently so fast approaching residentship, may eventually return to her former mental condition — if not to her husband.

You might say to her in this connection that since I am about to leave the city for a month in the hts. of east Tennessee and western Carolina she may safely return to Washington; and that it might not be a bad idea to have someone here to look after the house.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Jno. N. Sage Esq.
Portland, Conn.

July 7, 1

Dear Doctor Bell:

I have this moment received your letter enclosing a small mammal for identification.

The specimen is the so-called Labrador jumping mouse (Zapus hudsonius), which, in spite of its name, inhabits the greater part of the North American continent. My own cabinet contains specimens from as widely separated localities as Labrador and Washington Territory, and Manitoba and Virginia.

The specimen is herewith returned.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

July 7, 1

Dear Doctor Avery:

I am very much obliged for your recent letter, and am delighted to learn that you have a little Striped Skunk for me. Your description leaves no doubt of the species & it is difficult interruptus. Have send the animal to me by express, charges collect. It will come all right if you feed it on tea and milk on the box.

Of course I shall be only too glad to reimburse you for all expenditures and should be very glad to remunerate you for your trouble if you will accept it. I am anxious to secure specimens from your region, and you seem to be the

July 8, 7

Dear Thompson:

Am still so crowded that I have not been able to attend to the drawings.

Must before I forget it, why did you allow your publishers to print May 1886 instead of May 1887 for date of your Mammal list? I corrected this with special emphasis on the proof sent me, and still the correction was not made. Such blunders are the curse of bibliographers.

No ad. drawings.

For the present I will hold the Panther & Chipmunks for experiment in reproduction. I send back the two Bears and the Coyote as unsatisfactory.

In the present rush of work

only person through whom it can be done.

I note what you say about the small opening of the skunk. Pardon me if I suggest that you overlooked the small genital or urinogenital opening about an inch anterior to the anus.

In future, if you get any weasels or skunks "too far gone" to skin, I wish you would save the skulls, of which I want as many as possible.

Very truly Yours
C. Hart Merriam.

Dr. Wm. L. Avery
Greenboro, Ala.

I have been unable to lay my hand on the memorandum of ours as near as I can have a list of the deer yet unpaid for. Please send me a copy of it. Following I find:

Muskrat	15
Fox	12
Buffalo	15
Elegant pl	15
Bear	10
Rabbit	8
Heart of caribou	5
" " deer	5
" " possum	4.50
" " rabbit	4.
	93.50

Are stated prices satisfactory to you? If so, I will try to get you the money at once.

Besides travel, I owe you X I believe for the skeins.

Please let me hear from you at once as I hope to get off next week - heat has terrific.

I great hester.

Yours as ever.

C. Sam.

July 14, 7

Rev. Ira B. Henry
Macon, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 5th inst. and the two hanks of skeins of Saffers and mice have reached me in excellent condition. The molar bones (i.e., cheek bones) of two of the mice were broken or cut off. Otherwise the skulls were very fair.

I enclose money order for $3.50 in part. for the above.

Shall not need any more Saffers, but would like more mice of all kinds except house mice.

Please do not send anything more to Cumberland Clee, as I expect to move from there soon.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

I have been unable to lay my hand on the memorandum of ours as I have a list of the deerskins yet unpaid for. Please send me a copy of it. Following I find:

Muskrat	15
Fox	12
Buffalo	15
Wolf	15
Cat	10
Rabbit	8
Skin of coyote	5
" " deer	5
" " panther	4.50
" " rabbit	4.
	93.50

Are these prices satisfactory to you? If so, I will try to get you the money at once.

Beside these, I owe you X I believe for the skeletons.

Please let me hear from you at once as I hope to get off next week - heat here terrific.

I greatly desire.

Yours as ever.

C. Sam.

July 14, 7

Rev. Wm B. Henry
Mason, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 5th inst. and the two boxes of skins of Sophers and mice have reached me in excellent condition. The molar bones (i.e., cheek bones) of two of the mice were broken or cut off. Other mice the skulls were very fair.

I enclose money order for $8.25 in part. for the above.

Shall not need any more Sophers, but would like more mice if all kinds except house mice.

Please do not send anything more to Cumberland Gap, as I expect to move from there soon.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

July 14, 7

Dear Doctor Williston:

Many thanks for your
Synopsis of the N. Am. Lycophidæ
just rec'd. in a substantial
binding. Glad to see that
you are doing such excellent
work, and that you have been
able to complete so large a group
in so satisfactory a manner.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

S. W. Williston, M.D., Ph. Doc.
New Haven, Conn.

July 16, 7

Brimley Bros.
Dear Sirs:

Thanks for the box of mice which arrived in good order last night. Enclosed find $5.00 for the same.

Is the ad. & architect the mother of the four young rats?

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

July 20, 1

Dear Doctor Bell:

Your letter of the 18th inst. has just reached me.

Glad to know that you secured the appropriation necessary for printing the transactions of the Royal Soc.

In accordance with your request I will send Mr. Whittemore by this mail a few papers, consisting of a brief report as delegate, and of my paper on the migration of birds.

The substance of my other papers will appear in my reports here.

This evening I start for a bucketshop trip through the Mts. of East Tennessee & North Carolina, to be gone about a few weeks.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

July 25, 7

Mr. J. F. Whitteaves, F.G.S. &c.
Geol. survey.
Ottawa, Canada.

My dear Sir:

A letter just recd. from Dr. Bell requests me to send to you the Mss. of two papers read by me at the late meeting of the Royal Soc. of Canada.

Since you must have already more papers than you know what to do with, I will not inflict you with more than a very few pages, which you will find enclosed.

If you send proofs, please address me at the Dept. If agt. If I am out of town it will be forwarded without delay.

Very truly yours,
A. Hart Merriam.

Aug. 26, 1

The Hon.
Joseph R. Hawley
U. S. Senate.

Dear Sir:

Pardon my liberty in addressing you on a subject of no interest to either of me save in its relation to the memory of Professor Baird, and to the future of zoological research in America — I refer to the U.S. Fish Commission.

Mr. Ferguson is here, 'straining heaven and earth' - as the saying goes - to bring about his own appointment. (It is stated that the vacancy will be filled on or before the 2nd inst.)

I assume that you are sufficiently familiar with the Commission to know how utterly unfit for the position Mr. Ferguson is, even if there were no legal question as to his eligibility.

the members of the commission, without a single exception so far as I have been able to ascertain, feel that his appointment would result in the downfall of the commission. On the other hand, they feel that the appointment of B. Brown Goode, acting director U.S. Nat. Museum, would save the commission and insure continuance of its usefulness. There is no legal obstacle in the way of the appointment of Mr. Goode, and his familiarity with the policy and work of the commission from its very inception, together with his voluminous publications on the subject of our fisheries, and his recognized executive ability, preeminently point to him as the one best fit for the place.

Respectfully,
C. Hart Merriam.

Aug. 27, 1

Mr. John B. Lemon
Eubanks, Kentucky.

Dear Sir:

At last I have returned and have unpacked the box of specimens sent me Aug. 2d. Enclosed find $4.42 in part. for them. The skins show improvement over those previously sent, but still are not up to the mark. I do not want any more moles. Ground hogs & muskrats should be sent by express, charges collect. Date the enclosed envelope on the box.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

Aug. 27, 1

Dear Rathbun:

Do not give up the ship. The treasury men do better than Ferguson, and his appointment will stand off the final action till Congress meets, when I still hope to see the place offered to Goode.

Sentiment Blackford's action had something to do with Ferguson's defeat though I have every reason to believe the President offered to & from his own knowledge of the man.

I do not regard B. as as formidable a candidate as do some persons here, and believe Goode can easily have it finally if he will take it. Goode does not know how we have been fighting him during the last few days.

With kind regards to you all,

Very truly Yours, E. Rost Morrison.

Aug. 29, 7.

Dear Doctor Avery:

When I told you that I have been away for a month I think you will pardon my seeming neglect in waiting so long before thanking you for the specimens. You were kind enough to send early in the month.

The mouse is the common house mouse (Mus musculus); and the specimen marked 'weasel' is a mink (Putorius vison).

The little striped skunk is Spilogale putorius as I had suffered. It seems to differ from the Texas form in one respect, and I wish I could get two or three more specimens in order to determine whether or not the characters are constant.

I have been on a muskhog drive through the Mts. of East Tenn. & western

North Carolina. deserved a few good things, the best of which is a red-backed Wood Mouse (Evotomys) from Roan Mt. 2d is a northern species.

Would have accomplished much more but for the rain, which fell in torrents nearly every day.

I am very much indebted to you for your kindness and the trouble you have taken in my behalf, and if you will let me know my pecuniary indebtedness I will remit by return mail.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

Dr. Wm C. Avery
Greensboro' N.C.

Aug. 29, 87.

Mr. Arthur D. Wayne
Charleston, S.C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 25th inst. and the two mice are before me. The mice are the common red mouse of the Northern States (Hesperomys gossypinus).

The specimens are worthless to me as the skins are made up wrong; have the skulls and tail-bones left in. Hence I return them by this mail.

I have no use for such skins.

Respectfully
C. Hart Merriam.

Aug. 29, 7

Dear Doctor Merrill:

Very many thanks for your kindness in sending them Thermopsides. They are just what I wanted and are excellent specimens.

I am obliged also for the address of Mr. Parker, to whom I have written by this mail.

Sorry you must give up so interesting a locality as Klamath for so undesirable a place as Troy, & hope you will be able to get back in time next again soon. Suppose this change will enable you to be present at the A.O.U. meeting in D.C.

Again thanking you for your kindness, I remain,

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Aug. 29, 7

Herman Bailey Esq.
Kettleman, Dakota.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 23rd inst and the box from Devil's Lake came this morning, for which I am obliged.

The birds' stomachs are too much crowded & have begun to rot. You must first move alcohol into them. Will unpack the other specimens tonight. Those from Pembina were a very fine lot.

Was glad to get the Ringbill ant' skeleton of Shamineau from St. Vincent. Would be pleased if you would send me in like manner a similarly prepared skeleton of each species you meet with in sufficient numbers. Your skeletons always select old adults.

Glad you have at last struck Jamica Kittiwakes.

August 29 /

Prof. Tycho Tullberg
Professor of Zoology
Upsala, Sweden.

Dear Sir:

I hope you will pardon my long delay in acknowledging your kind letter. I have been away on a long collecting trip in the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina. On my return I find the box of specimens awaiting me, and all in excellent condition.

I now have on hand for you in spirit the following:

Arvicola	1 of several
Neotoma	1 "
Zapus	1 "
Scalops	2
Scapanus	2
Condylura	2
Blarina	several
Sorices	"

The birds sent are Dendroica maculosa, young; Melospiza melodia, Zonotrichia leucophrys, Zonotrichia querula, and Otocoris cornicolas. What shall we do with them?

A letter I wrote you at Round Hole, Minn., has been returned from the Dead Letter Office.

I thought you were going to send me the young Lit Lark from Devil's Lake for positive identification.

The frog is Rana halecina.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

Spermophilus 13-lineatus ♀+♂
Nesterma 1.
Geomys ♀+♂
Thomomys ♀+♂
Otolepha cinerea (and other bats if you desire).

In a short time I shall have, also in spirit, Cynomys ♀+ and Dipodomys and a few others. If you wish other genera, please let me know.

I should not object to seal's skulls with only a few teeth gone. Would like very much to get skulls of Urnicola agrestis, rutilus, and rufescens, as well as more of the Microtidae.

If Mr. Dryden is with you, please give him my kind regards.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

Sept. 16, 1887.

Mr. J. S. Diller
Red Bluff, Cal.
Dear Sir:

Finding your house unoccupied and disliking above all things to see a house standing empty at this time of year, I managed to get the keys away from Barrows and forthwith began to pile my plunder upon your floors. Last evening at seven o'clock the last load was deposited on the sidewalk, and my wife is now busy (or ought to be) in trying to clear a few paths among the innumerable boxes and bundles that blocked the way when I left the house this morning.

Existing you will not turn us out before the middle of November, when our new house ought to be finished,

I remain, very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

P.S. $20. per month satisfactory to the Diller family!

Left St. 26/87.

Mr. John B. Lewis
Dear Sir:

Your postal card and bats rec'd. I don't want any more Red bats, but would like more of the small brown bat. Also if another species with larger ears than any you have sent.

I would like more skins of mice and ground squirrels provided the skins are good.

Will credit you 50 cts. on ac for these bats.

Very truly

C. Hart Merriam —

Sept. 26, 1888.

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Your kind letter reached me about two weeks ago, having been forwarded from my former home at Locust Grove, New York. I am now living in Washington, which is my permanent home. The box of skulls and skins has now arrived, and I assure you I am very thankful for its valuable contents.

I told Mr. Ridgway what you said about exchanges. He says he will be very glad to exchange with you for the U.S. National Museum. He says he wants everything he can get from Central and South America, and also from Asia. If you will kindly write him, stating what birds you want in exchange, he will reply promptly. His address is Robert Ridgway
Curator of Birds
U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C.

Are you never coming to America
to see us?
Please remember me kindly to both
Prof. Dr. Wilh. Blasius & Dr. Rudolf Blasius when
you see them.
Very truly yours
A. Kurt Herrmann.

Mrs. Christine
Adolfine Hohnhorn
auf Kitzeghausen
bei Braunschweig

Sept. 21, 1907.

Mr. Woodleigh.
Highbury.
Dear Sir:

Original Defective

Are you never coming to America
to see us?
Please remember me kindly to Mother
Prof. Dr. Wilh. Klemm & Dr. Rudolf Klemm when
you see them.
Very truly yours
A. Barth Merriam

Sept. 29, 1887.

Mr. Wm Lilley.
Mydear Sir:

Your last letter came when I was away from the city. On my return I had to mine — collection, household effects, and everything — and in the rummaging your letter was mislaid and has just come to light. Hence this extra fraction of delay. The young "grand squirrel" you sent is Sciurus Hudsonius Pallescens, and I would be very glad of some adults, as well as of any other mammals from Lincoln county. The turtle will, oddly enough, are this common name around (Mud puppies). Glad to know that your hand came out for me.

Your discovery in regard to the distance certain birds scream from water is quite interesting. Write you — for permission — I shall use it & note it to the Auk.

During the past week I have been comparing your article on the birds of Texas and Lincoln counties with the notes credited

Original Defective

Oct. 3, 11

Dear Mrs. Allen:

Your letter of the 30th ult. is before me.

Mrs. Mee joins me in respectful remembrances to Mrs. Allen and yourself in kind invitation to visit you in N.Y., which we would be only too glad to accept were it not impracticable. Mrs. Mc remains here during my absence, and it is not likely that I shall be able to stay over night in N.Y., though I shall certainly call on Mrs. Allen & "stay to tea" — or some other meal.

In regard to the editorship of the Anvil: I do not think the plan you suggest would be the best possible source for the Union, everything considered. To me it seems of the utmost

2/

importance that at least one of the editors should be a man of international reputation as an anti-trafficist.

I have given the matter a good deal of thought and have arrived at the opinion that no one man (of sufficient attainments) will be willing to assume so much extra labor as the editorship of the Ark entails. If two or more persons join in the undertaking, they must of course live in the same place. With these points in view I suggest the following plan: That the council appoint a committee of five to edit the Ark for the coming year, this committee to consist of Lewis, Ridgway Stringer, Kenehan, and Merriam. This committee will elect an editor in chief, and a secretary. The members of the com. will be workers (not mere ornaments, as in the case of the present Associate editors). The ed. in chief will allot matter to each of his associate, who will perform faithfully the task assigned. I have talked

3/

over the scheme with Ridgway and Stringer, and they agree to take hold and work if the council see fit to so name the committee. Have not seen Lewis or Kenehan in regard to it, but doubt not that they will join in all right.

Think it over & let me know your views.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam.

5.

Enclosed you will find my personal note for £100 temporarily take the place of the £50 I borrowed.

There is another matter that will interest you, but concerning which I am not now at liberty to speak. During the coming year I am likely to be offered a position paying much more than I now receive — a position of great distinction which I think you will be proud to see me hold. Please do not mention this to anyone till I am at liberty to write you fully in regard to it.

With love to all

Ever your

I will cancel this debt of £50 and then give you £100 at the end of March or the middle of April.

The only possible risk you run would be in the event of my death during the next three months, and I am therefore insuring my life for £1000 in favour of Mrs. Shaw for the benefit of the children. The premium will be £15-11-8 and I will ask you to pay it for me. (Mrs. Shaw has £50 of her own.) I will send you the receipt for the first premium as soon as I get it.

Mrs. Shaw is also insuring her life for £1000 in favour of the children. The premium will be £15-11-8 and I will ask you to pay it for her. (Mrs. Shaw has £50 of her own.) I will send you the receipt for the first premium as soon as I get it.

3/ £2.50 for agency debt, and £2.50 for agency debt, and £2.50 for agency debt, and

Enclosed you will find my (5.)
personal note for $10000 to
temporarily take the place
of the deed of trust.

There is another matter
that will interest you, but
concerning which I am
not now at liberty to
speak. During the coming
year I am likely to be
offered a position paying much
more than I now receive
— a position of great distinction
which I think you will
be proud to see me hold.
Were do not mention this
to anyone till I am at
liberty to write you fully
in regard to it.
With love to all -
Ever Yours.

Dear Father. Am sending you
the deed of trust which
we spoke of yesterday.
I will write you
fully in a few days.
Affectionately
Will

Washington, D. C.
Oct. 16, 1887.

Messrs. C. S. & H. H. Brimley
Raleigh, N. C.

Dear Sirs:

Have just returned from the A. O. U. meeting in Boston & find your reminder & the 9th inst. on my desk.

Your specimens letter and the specimens came first as I was in the act of moving from one part of the city to another. I put them away without opening & forgot all about them until today, when your second letter stimulated me to find them.

Hence please pardon my delay in writing. Enclosed find $2.50 in payt. for them.

Shall be glad to get more skins -

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

October 18, 1

Mr. Herman Bailey:

Your letters and a telegram from you there reached me all in a bunch. Glad to know that you are on your way to Redmond, Dakota, where I trust this letter will find you in a few days.

Was much pleased to learn that you there secured a pair of peromyscus and a series of ~~Sifadamys~~ and ~~Cricetulus~~ Leucogaster. I shall receive a box in a few days, as no specimens there reached me from you since you arrived at Rupert. Am anxious to see the "yellow Arvicola", among other things.

Prairie dogs do not hibernate much — probably stay remain inactive during severe cold & come out whenever the temperature moderates. This is the case with many mammals. I don't know anything about the habits of ~~Sifadamys~~.

Oct. 20, 8

My dear Doctor Bradley:

Nothing but a constant pressure of overwork has kept me from replying to your very welcome letter of Sept. 7th, from New London.

I congratulate you on your good fortune in hitting in with Dr. Kramer and in making Block 21 your joint headquarters for the summer.

From your catalogue of the numerous and diverse kinds of occupation, both in the way of business & pleasure, that have received your attention during the season, it is evident that you have enjoyed and profited by every moment of the time. What became of your typhoid patient? Did he recover or die?

Have about opening an office in New York? Have you decided to do this?

I do not believe Prairie Dogs dig down to water.

In the Black Hills look out for Rocky Mountain and other Rocky Mt. birds. Send me a pair of skins of each of the resident species you find there.

In the mammal line there is much to find, but I fear it is so late that several species have "denned up" for the winter. I particularly want Ground Hog, and the little Chief Hare or Coney (Lagomys princeps) found in shingle slips up on the Rocks. Of course the ammo will be a great help to you in trapping species which do not hibernate.

Where-ever I am, I want to be in frequent communication with you from time to time on. Always notify me in advance of change in your address.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

P.S. write me when & where to send money.

It seems to me that such a course would be infinitely preferable to remaining in Nw Haven. But if you do go to N.Y. of course you will get something to do in connection with some hospital or laboratory so that you will have plenty of work on hand all the time.

We moved from Sunderland Place to a little bit of a house (only 14 ft. wide!) on 16th St. next the Peabody Museum building, left. 16th. Elizabeth has had a touch of malaria, but is better now. Within a month we expect to move into our new house, which I think will prove very comfortable. At any rate, I believe it to be well built and thoroughly 'plumbed' and heated. You must come to see us when we get settled.

I expect to go home for the balance of my books and specimens, but don't know just when.

As ever yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

Forward

Oct. 20, 7

My dear Grinnell:

I do not know who wrote the exceedingly inaccurate and unfair notice of my preliminary report which appeared in the Oct. no. of the Audubon magazine, but I am very sorry it was printed, as a reply is imperative, and it is a pity that those of us who are working for the same end and should pull together, should seem to be quarreling.

Was sorry not to see you at the recent Boston meeting of the A.O.U. Are you not coming on here this winter?

Very truly yours

C. Hart Merriam

Dr. Jos. Grinnell
Nun Jork -

E C O N O M I C O R N I T H O L O G Y.

A REPLY.

Editor Audubon Magazine.

Sir:

The October number of the Audubon Magazine (page 211) contains a notice of the "preliminary report on economic ornithology" recently published in the annual report of the Department of Agriculture for 1886.

In reading this notice I was surprised to see several incorrect statements of fact, and was astonished to find myself accused of expressing opinions that I have never held.

In regard to the English Sparrow, the report in question contains the following: "In advance of the publication of the special bulletin on the English Sparrow question, which will contain in detail the evidence on which the following statements are based, it is thought desirable at the present time to set forth some of the results of the investigation for the information of the general public", etc. In view of the above, I beg to ask for the facts which led my critic to say: "it occurs to us that the investigation does not appear to have been conducted in the same scientifically impartial spirit that resulted in the acquittal of the hawks and

Original Defective

owls". Inasmuch as the report on the English Sparrow has not yet been published, I would like to ask what my critic knows about the facts upon which the conclusions have been based, or the spirit in which the investigation has been conducted; also, what led him to assert that the replies received to our circular on the Sparrow are "all condemnatory"?

After disposing of the Sparrow, the reviewer states: "On the same grounds we are disposed to take exception to the sweeping conclusion that all birds subsisting on grain are inimical to man, those only being beneficial which prey on mice and insects". I respectfully challenge the editor of the Audubon Magazine to show that I have ever expressed, either in print or in convertation, any opinion which can be construed into the views here attributed to me. I beg to protest against this sort of wholesale misrepresentation, which is due, of course, to carelessness on the part of the reviewer, who could not have read the report he has seen fit to criticise.

In conclusion, may I ask if the editor of the Audubon Magazine considers it entirely fair to lead his readers to regard as an enemy to the good cause he upholds, the very man to whose efforts it is largely due the formation of the bird protection committee of [illegible]

Oct. 22/87.

My dear Thompson:

Absence from the city and unusual pressure of work, even for me, are the reasons you have not heard from me before.

Enclosed you will find vouchers for $38.50, which please receipt and return. This settles the items mentioned in my July letter I believe.

I have secured a requisition for 6 more mammals and two hawks, all to be done in bird mark, cost not to exceed $12 each. The hawks are for an 8th bulletin. An adult Red-tail and Sparrow Hawk would be about what I want now. Do you want to do the job?

Heartily yours

C. Hart Merriam

P.S. Did you never find Gen. Greenleaf in Manitoba?

2 Buteo b. Thompson
76 Measures

Oct. 22, 1

Dear Doctor Mackenbar:

On returning to Washington I find your letter of the 10th inst. awaiting attention.

The biography I found here on my return from the St. Louis Exposition. Sometime ago. I was disgusted to find that, in spite of all my protests, the map had been published without giving me a chance to see if the corrections had been made. As a matter of fact many were not made, particularly in So. America. Then that disgraceful bird map was left in the corner after I wrote you that it was too faulty even to admit of correction. I told you I would fill it in profusely if you would send it in blank. But neither this nor the much promised photograph of that map were sent me.

Mr. Mackenbar
Mr. Bierstadt
Mr. Bierstadt

grumbling none as readers, but in view of the number of hours I spent over the map nights, without compensation, and when overcrowded and nearly worn out with other work, it does seem to me that I have been treated very shabbily.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

Oct. 24/87.

Mr. Vernon Bailey
Deadwood, Dakota.

Mydear Sir:

This is merely a line to notify you of the receipt of your several communications and the box of specimens, all of which came in fairly good condition. But in future never put anything heavy in top and box with skins.

The mouse you described as a "yellow Arvicola" is particularly interesting though I fail to find anything yellow about it. At first I took it to be a Dymetomys, but the teeth are more like those of Arvicola proper. Have not yet had time to examine it critically but will do so in a few days and let you know the results.

In great haste
Yours
C. Hart Merriam.

Retake of Preceding Frame

grumbling none do readers, but in view of the number of hours I spent over the map nights, without compensation, and when overcrowded and nearly worn out with other work, it does seem to me that I have been treated very shabbily.

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In great haste
Yours
C. Hart Merriam

Oct. 25, 1887.

Mr. A. B. Baker
Kansas, Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 21st inst. is before me. Your skunks is Mephitis interrupta. I have taken it in Idaho (personally), and have skins & skulls from California, Texas, and Georgia. Have not seen it from Kansas & hence would like to get your specimen. Will give you 2¢ for it, though I usually pay but 1.25 for the species. It is abundant throughout the continent, and in Florida.

Glad to know that you have time more Diptera for me.

Would like two more pairs of Cynomys. Can you not get me some Neotomas?

Very truly yours.

C. Hart Merriam

Oct. 26, 1887.

Mr. James M. Macoun
Geol. Survey, Ottawa, Canada.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 18th inst., together with your MS. notes on the breeding habits of certain mammals at Hudsons Bay, has arrived in good order.

These notes are of much value, and I am greatly indebted for your kindness copying them for me.

What is the species called "Weenirk"? Never mind about skins of the larger mammals. I know nothing about the H. B. Co's. claim when I wrote, and could not think of paying their prices.

Please give my compliments to your father, and say that I shall be much pleased to hear from him when he has time to write.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Oct. 26, 7

Henry Holt & Co.

Dear Sirs:

Your check for $17.15 in payt. for 7 copies Adv. Mammals has just come to hand, for which I am very much obliged.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam.

Washington, D.C.
Oct. 30, 1887.

Mr. Lucien M. Turner.

Dear Sir:

If you can conveniently [illegible] from me some time yet it will be a great favor.

As you know, I am just finishing a theme which has cost me so much money that I am heavily in debt, and [illegible] all the dollars I have can to avoid being swamped.

Hoping you find your new position agreeable I remain, with best wishes, very truly yours

E. Hart Merriam

Nov. 3, 1887.

Mr. A. W. Anthony
Ensenada, Mexico.

Mydear Sir:

Your letter of the 16th ultimo is before me, together with the skins, for all of which I am very much obliged. Glad to hear from you again. And often wondered what had become of you. The fall you have been in recently so even more interesting than former collections — because less known.

The Chipmunk appears to be nearer Tamias dorsalis than anything from. The squirrel approaches Sciurus fremonti but is not typical by any means. The skunks you describe I am unwilling to guess at, but will venture the opinion that one is more of them are new.

I hope you will be able to revisit the San Pedro Mt., as it promises to

be an unusually fruitful fall.

The trouble is that everything from Mexico is interesting, and we know very little about the species found there. Mr. Robert Lehmin, of London, is going to the Mts. of Northern Mexico about Dec. 15 to spend the winter collecting birds & mammals. Doubtless he will get ahead of us in publishing many new things.

Hoping to hear from you again,
I am, My dear Sir,
C. Hart Merriam.

Nov. 5, 1887.

Mr. Ira B. Henry,
Mason, Texas.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 20th ult. I beg to say that I would like to have a few more mammals from your region, particularly rock squirrels, white-backed skunks, and several kinds of mice. The skunk I refer to has a solid white back (no stripes) and a comparatively short tail. Have rec'd. just one of them from you. I would like also five of the little striped skunks.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam —

P.S. Of course I always want weasels and black-footed ferrets.

Nov. 9, 1887.

Dear Doctor Zweckenhoff:

The letter forwarded from your draughtsmen came duly. In regard to the corrections, most of them must be made except those in South America, particularly in Brazil, as I wrote you Oct. 22d.

In your letter of Oct. 26th ult. you say: "In regard to the bird map, I do not remember the objection you state — all I remember is, there were no corrections to be made on it." Perhaps it will refresh your memory to refer to my letter of May 20th last, in which I said:

"The bird map is so bad that I shall not attempt to do anything with it in its present shape. It must either be omitted altogether, or the map must be corrected for the primary realms and the bird names removed, in which case

Washington, D.C.
Nov. 10, 1862.

Dear Mrs. Hooper:

Between the acute pain & failure
sustaining a letter of two hours in
duration.

While unable to say a word
that will be of any comfort
to you in this terrible hour
of bereavement, I think it
due to the memory of him
whose life was so nobly
spent, to express the
admiration with which
his character inspired me.
Of his magnificent exhibition
of the highest Christian
heroism in the battle of Fredericksburg, in which
he received his mortal wound, I can not
trust myself to speak. I was with him
immediately after he was wounded, &
found him perfectly conscious, & aware
that the hand of death was upon him.
He was then suffering great pain, but
bore it with the most heroic fortitude.
He was perfectly resigned to the will of
God, & spoke calmly of his approaching
death. He said that he had endeavored
to do his duty, & that he was willing to
die for his country. He was perfectly
conscious to the last moment, & died
without a struggle.

I will supply the names of those which
are characteristic of the several regions.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

November 12, 1887.

Montague Chamberlain, Esq.
St. John, New Brunswick.

Dear Sir:

I am glad to learn from your recent letter that you are trying to secure a position as Ornithologist on the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, and hope you will succeed.

The Survey has done a vast amount of splendid work in Botany under the efficient management of its indefatigable Botanist, Prof. John Macoun, whose writings are prized wherever the English language is understood. Why should it not do equally good work in Ornithology? Surely the economic importance of the subject would justify many times the necessary expenditure. Moreover, since the Survey has collected already many hundreds of birds, in addition to those mounted and on exhibition in its Museum, it is a pity that no person is employed whose special function is to properly care for and increase the collection. Through the courtesy of officers of the Survey, it has been my privilege to examine many of the rare birds now crowded together in drawers in the Museum, and I can testify from personal observation, not only that many of the specimens are

of great value, but that numerous others are of importance from the geographical position of the places from which they came. In this direction the Museum contains a large amount of material which should be published for the benefit of ornithologists at large, as well as for the credit of the Survey,--for it cannot be long before many of its interesting discoveries will be made by others, who will lose no time in publishing the same.

So far as your own fitness for the position is concerned, I can only say that, should occasion require, I shall be most happy to testify both to your earnest enthusiasm as a worker, and to the recognized merit of your ornithological writings.

Trusting that the Canadian Government will see fit to make you its official Ornithologist, I am,

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Chief of the Division of
Ornithology and Mammalogy.

Nov. 17, 1887.

My dear Mr. Dall:

Yes, I will give you something in regard to Prof. Baird's contributions to Mammalogy in time for the memorial meeting, provided it is not to be held within a week.

I am deluged in work just now, but will first get off some things and attend to this.

Very truly yours.
C. Hart Merriam.

Dr. Wm H. Dall
U. S. Geol. Survey.

Nov. 16, 1887.

Dear Mr. Allen

In response to yours of the 13th inst., will have the minutes copied and sent you — as soon as possible. I should not think of writing an account of the meeting.

From your letter I draw the inference that the final outcome of incorporating in N.Y. is precisely the same as was the case in Washington, and open to the same objections.

Shortly I shall send you a complete list of all the members for publication in connection with the By Laws & Rules which you now have.

We have not yet got into our new house — because the carpenters have not got out. We hope to move in about the middle of next week. Then I shall go home (to Harvard Square) for a week and shall see you en route. Our regards to Mrs. Allen & yourself:

Nov. 17, 1887.

Mr. Samuel Parker
Fort Klamath, Oregon.
Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 1st inst. reached me several days ago, and the sample skin has now arrived. It is an excellent skin, and the only criticism I have to offer is that the fore feet might be brought a little closer to the neck, so ⁄, instead of as ⁄. The skull is all right, and is much cleaner than I expected. In fact, it is all ready for the cabinet without requiring further treatment. There was no label on this specimen. Will you kindly tell me when it was killed? The animal is Say's Chipmunk or Striped Squirrel (Tamias lateralis).

Now in regard to price: I have two methods of buying my collectors; first, to take but one or two skins of a kind and pay rather high prices; and second, to take ten or more skins of each kind (up to the limit of four

largest Ground Squirrel) and pay lower prices for skins. As a rule the latter method is more satisfactory both to the collectors and to me.

If you will undertake to supply me with ten specimens of each of the smaller species I will be glad to take them at the following prices per skin with skull:

	cts.
Mice and Shrews	35
Chipmunks and Ground Squirrels	50 – 75
Weasles	75
Pocket Gophers	50
Rabbits	50

Of larger mammals, I would be glad to take two specimens each of the following:

Woodchuck (or Ground Hog)	1.50
Skunks	1.50
Wild Cat or Lynx	1.50
Porcupine	2.00
Badger	2.00
Marten	2.00

Of bats in alcohol I would like 10 of each kind at from 10 to 25 cts. each, according to the species.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam —

P.S. If you will collect for me I will furnish printed labels for you to fill out.

Nov. 17, 1887.

My dear Mr. Thomas:

Today's mail has brought me three of your papers, forwarded from my old address, Locust Grove, N.Y. (Please note that my present and future address is Washington, D.C.)

Am particularly pleased to see your discussion of the evolution of mammalian teeth, and shall read this paper with intense interest.

I am just now on the point of moving into my new house, where, in the course of a couple of months, I hope to have my entire collection of skins and skulls perfectly arranged. When this work is finished, will you not come over here and make me a visit? I can make you comfortable, and it would give me great pleasure to place my large series of N. Am. mammals at your service in any investigation you

may have in hand. The genus Nesferaria so much in need of revision, and I have more than five hundred of its North American representatives.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam —

Mr. Oldfield Thomas
Curator of Mammals
British Museum.

Nov. 12/87.

Mr. Egbert Bagg
Utica, N. Y.
Dear Sir:

I wish to insure my new brick house, cor. 16th & Catalina Sts. in this city, for $8,000.00, beginning Nov. 27th inst. & would like half-year Ins. in the Continental of N. Y.

Please inform me by return mail what the cost of such insurance will be for one year, two years, and three years, respectively.

The house is a three-story and cellar dwelling, standing alone, on the corner — as you will see from the accompanying sketch.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam —

Nov. 17, 1887.

Dear Mr. True:

Prof. Cope writes me that he is unable to find any trace of the type of Orycteropus cuvieri in his collection. He sent the remains (consisting of fragments of the skull, with a few teeth) to Cope when the latter was at work on his Monograph of the Muridæ.

In looking over this Monograph I see that Cope, in his table of measurements of so-called "cuvieri", refers to Cope's type as No. 10267. This led me to suspect that Cope's specimen may not have been returned, but possibly still reposes in the National Museum, bearing the number 10267. If not too much trouble, will you kindly inform me on this point?

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam —

Nov. 21, 1887.

Mr. Herman Bailey
Elk River, Minn.

My dear Sir:

Your letter from Rapid City, dated Nov. 16th, has just arrived, and I suppose the bird will come in a day or two.

You are still under pay, as I thought you might put in time equivalent to the remainder of the month in doing some work for us at Elk River. Besides, you are entitled to two weeks vacation.

In looking over your letters and reports I find no report or list from either Tilyou's Ranch or Glendive.

Before leaving Elk River I wish you would send me a list of the mammals found there, with remarks on relative abundance etc. as you have done from other localities. Also, would like all the specimens you can get of Dysaptamys, Neosoma palustris, and Weasels.

Can you not get me a Lancefine from

minnesota? And can you not get one from Lucette Bot. by writing to your fri. at Bottineau? We want onychomys also from Bottineau.

However, please attach regular labels to all alcoholics, so that the data for them will not be lost if any accident should happen to your catalogue.

In making skins of small mammals you have lately taken to turning the hind feet forward flat in a way I do not like. Some of your Elk River skins are all right in this respect. The hind feet should be placed like this: (with the sole toward the tail). In all other particulars your good skins are almost perfect.

Hope to hear from you soon in regard to the Texas trip.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Nov. 22, 1887.

Rev. John Burroughs
Dear Sir:

In reply to your request for our bird bulletins I regret to say that as yet none have left the press. Strych. nu. subject to hemstreet ready for distribution - by the end of the year.

The only publication of this division for 1886 is my brief and very unsatisfactory Annual Report for 1886, a copy of which goes to your address by this mail.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Retake of Preceding Frame

minnesota? and can you not get one from Lucetta Vat. by writing to your fri. at Baltimore! We want Onychomys [illegible] from Baltimore.

Hereafter, please attach regular labels to all alcoholics, so that the data for them will not be lost if any accident should happen to your catalogue.

In making skins of small mammals you have lately taken to turning the hind feet down flat in a way I do not like. Some of your Elk Rives skins are all right in this respect. The hind feet should be placed like this: (with the sole toward the tail). In all other particulars your good skins are almost perfect.

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Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Nov.22d, 1887.

Dictated.

Dear Professor Cope:

Since the receipt of your communication of the 15th inst., I have succeeded in finding, in the National Museum, the few remaining fragments of your type specimen of Arvicola curtata. Fortunately, the front lower molar remains, and it serves to prove that the animal belongs to the subgenus Chilotus, and is not Pedomys as supposed by Coues.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Professor E.D.Cope,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Washington
Dec. 15, 1887.

H.M.T.C.S. Brimley

Dear Sire:

Your note of the 10th inst. ... the loss of 19 Klamath, for which I enclose $6.00

During the last two months I have received about 25 Klamath ciscoes from Maryland.

Hereafter I cannot pay but 25 cts. each for any of the eastern Klamath.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

December 20, 1897.

Mr. E. T. Adney,

Upper Woodstock,

New Brunswick, Canada.

Dear Sir:

I am told that you are spending the winter in a trappers' camp in the evergreen forests of New Brunswick. Hence I write to ask a favor. Will you ask the trappers to save me the skulls of all the animals they catch during the winter and spring? I will give them ten cents each for uncleaned skulls of Marten, Fox, Porcupine, Coon, Skunk, Mink, Weasel, Flying-squirrel, Wildcat, and Lynx; twenty-five cents each for uncleaned skulls of Otter, Fisher, and Beaver; and fifty cents each for Bear skulls.

I will take fifty specimens of each of these animals, at the prices named. The only data of importance is the sex, which in all cases must be marked on the skull. The easiest way to do this is by attaching small tags, similar to those enclosed, one to each skull.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

(Dictated.)

Dec. 21, 1887.

Mr. Dear Grinnell:

Your letter of yesterday relieves my mind considerably, for I did think it strange that you not only did not publish my reply to the Rev. Mag. criticism, but that you did not even write or ask. its receipt. Now in order to save space in the Rod. Mag. which is overcrowded all the time, if there be no further reference to me, I will not insist on the publication of my reply, but will be entirely satisfied with a brief paragraph explaining or acknowledging the signatures of the criticism.

Glad you are coming on this winter. Do me the honor to make my room hence your home while here, be you stay long or short.

Our number is 1919 - 16th St. N.W.

Very truly yours
C. Mott Bunnicam

Dr. Geo. Rich Grinnell
N. Y. City.

Washington, D.C.
Dec. 21, 1887.

Messrs. H.H. & C.S. Brimley,
Dear Sirs:

In reply to your letter of the 19th inst. would say that I shall be glad to get 10 more specimens each of Blarina carolinensis & B. soricina at 20 cts. each.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

157

Dec. 20, 1

Mr. Charles A. Allen
Nicasio, Cal.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 5th inst. is before me, together with the bat, which is a very handsome specimen of Glaucus macrotis. I enclose $1.57 in payt. for the same, with postage.

Will take two 2 thrums and two Gibbs' Rock at 50 cts. each. Also, a pair of Wood Rats. Do not believe I shall want any of the Livia specimens, as I already have tolerably full series of most of the mammals you are likely to get.

Am surprised to learn that you did not hear from me in reply to your letter with which you sent the cuttings and the jumping mouse. I wrote you and stated that the jumping mouse (Zapus hudsonicus) occurs from Colorado to the Pacific, & throughout the northern series of states

I will take two skins of each of two species of bats you are able to prepare. Wish you could make me a skin or two of Lasiurus noctivagus. Where alcoholics do not make good skins.

Hoping you are in better health than formerly, and wishing you and yours a "Merry Christmas", I am

Very truly yours

C. Hart Merriam -

P.S. Judging from two specimens received from you I should say that two Aplodontias from Pt. Reyes do not more than 1/3 the size of one from Blue Canon. Am I not right?

C.H.M.

Dec. 23, 1888.

My dear Cook:

Have just had a letter from a hunter in Maine stating that he has killed a bull Moose which stands 7 ft. at the shoulders, and measures 13 ft. 6 in. from snout to hind toe. The blades of antlers are eleven inches across at broadest point, and each has eleven prongs. The head so prepared for mounting and is offered for sale at $50. The hunter is on the way to Farmington with it, and writes that he will telegraph me from that place the latter part of this week.

Have just had a talk with Kennaday and he is as anxious as I am to see the Menotus in the Nat. Museum.

For the past two years I have been collecting measurements of Moose, but have not found anything above 6 ft. 4 in. at shoulder until this fall when two

so called "Jumbo" moose was killed in Maine, & much talked of in the papers. "Jumbo" stood 6 ft. 7 in.

The present giant, standing 7 ft., reminds one of the wonderful tales of John Josselyn, John Lawson, and Thomas Morton or William Wood — I forget which. I do not believe so huge a moose will be killed again, and hope you can see a way by which it may be brought into the Museum.

Will communicate with Hornaday on receipt of telegram.

Please remember me kindly to Profs. Verrill, Lawton, & Clarke.

Hoping you are having a very enjoyable outing I remain,

Yours as ever,

C. Hart Merriam.

...Baird's contributions to a knowledge of North American Mammals, though less voluminous than those relating to Birds, are not less important. Previous to his time, but one general work on the subject had been published[*]--that of Audubon and Bachman entitled the "Quadrupeds of North America" which was issued in three volumes, from 1845 to 1854. Immediately after the completion of this great work, collections began to pour into the Smithsonian Institution from the various exploring parties of the Pacific Railroad Surveys. This material comprised a large number of new species, and cast so much light upon many other doubtful points concerning the relations of species already described, that a revision of the whole subject became necessary. Hence Prof. Baird at once set about the preparation of the work entitled Mammals of North America. This great work was rapidly pushed to completion and appeared in 1859, just three years after the publication of the last volume of Audubon and Bachman's quadrupeds. It constitutes the eighth volume of the Pacific Railroad Reports, and is a ponderous quarto of more than 700 pages, accompanied by numerous excellent plates.

Though published thirty years ago, this work still remains the standard manual treatise on North American Mammals. It contains no biographical matter, but consists chiefly of technical descrip-

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* The Mammal volume of Richardson's Fauna-Boreali Americana does not fall under this head, because it treats only of the portions of the collection.

Retake of Preceding Frame

as called "Jumbo" moose was killed in Maine, & much talked of in the papers. Jumbo stood 6 ft. 7 in.

The present giant, standing 7 ft., reminds one of the wonderful tales of John Josselyn, John Lawson, and Thomas Morton of Merrymount Mount — I forget which. I do not believe so huge a moose will be killed again, and hope you can see a way by which it may be brought into the Museum

Will communicate with Kennedy on receipt of telegram.

Please remember me kindly to Prof. Morrill, Lawson & Clarke.

Hoping you are having a very enjoyable holiday I remain

Yours as ever.

S. Hart Merriam.

Prof. Baird's contributions to a knowledge of North American Mammals, though less voluminous than those relating to Birds, are not less important. Previous to his time, but one general work on the subject had been published[x]--that of Audubon and Bachman (entitled the "Quadrupeds of North America) which was issued in three volumes, from 1845 to 1854. Immediately after the completion of this great work, collections began to pour into the Smithsonian Institution from the various exploring parties of the Pacific Railroad Survey. This material comprised so large a number of new species, and cast so much light upon many previously doubtful points concerning the relations of species already described, that a revision of the whole subject became necessary. Hence Prof. Baird at once set about the preparation of the book commonly known

as Mammals of North America. This great work was rapidly pushed to completion and appeared in 1857, just three years after the publication of the last volume of Audubon and Bachman's Quadrupeds. It constitutes the eighth volume of the Pacific Railroad Reports, and is a ponderous quarto of more than 700 pages, accompanied by numerous excellent plates.

Though published thirty years ago, this work still remains the standard general treatise on North American Mammals. It contains no biographical matter, but consists wholly of technical descrip-

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[x] The Mammal volume of Richardson's Fauna-Boreali Americana does not fall under this head, because it treats only of the northern portion of the continent.

Original Defective

tions. It treats of all the Mammals then known from the Continent of North America north of Mexico, except the Bats and the truly pelagic forms--Whales, Sea Cows, and Seals. The total number of known species was increased nearly twenty-five per cent.

In matters of synonymy, and in the correct assignment of species previously described, Prof. Baird was much aided by his knowledge of the German language.)

The descriptions, which are models of painstaking accuracy and exactness, are taken from the specimens themselves and are accompanied by long tables of measurements, the value of which more than justifies the enormous expenditure of time necessary in their preparation. Much more attention was paid to craniological characters than has been the custom with previous writers, which fact contributes largely to the permanent value of the work.

Prof. Baird's reputation as a careful observer, his power of applying his wide knowledge to matters under investigation, his wide knowledge of the distribution of species and of natural phenomena in general, together with his excellent judgment which was as marked in matters of minor detail as in those requiring great executive ability--enabled him to perceive distinctions and draw conclusions which subsequent accumulations of material have verified in a surprisingly large number of cases. In fact, his pre-eminent superiority as a systematic zoologist almost leads to regret that so large a part of his lifetime was consumed in the discharge of official duties.

Jan. 2, 1888.

My dear Mr. Dall:

Pardon my delay in handing you the enclosed note in regard to Prof. Baird as a Mammalogist. I regret that it is so unsatisfactory. Make such use of it as will best serve your purpose.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam -

Dr. W.H. Dall

U.S. Nat. Museum -

Lh. 277-278.

January 14, 1888.

Mr. William Hubbell Fisher,

Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Fisher:

In reply to your letter of the 12th instant, asking for information in regard to the best method of cleaning the bones of an elephant; I would respectfully state that there is but one method by which such bones may be properly cleaned, and that is by long maceration. An augur hole one inch in diameter should be bored in both ends of each of the long bones of the legs, and should reach in as far as possible, in order to furnish a free escape for the marrow and grease. Then the bones should be put to soak in large barrels or hogsheads, or in a large vat, where they may remain undisturbed for at least a year. If the elephant is a large one a year and a half, or even longer, may be necessary. The bones will then be ready for final preparation and mounting.

Very truly yours,

F. Ward Putnam

(Dictated.)

when down this way call in.

Jan. 17, 8

Mr. Marvin H. Benner
Buffalo, New York.
Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 14th inst. I would say that I should be pleased to have you submit an offer for half or the whole of my property on Jersey St. near Ont. St., a description of which is enclosed.

What do you consider this property worth and what is your commission in case of a sale?

Respectfully
C. Kent Morrison --

Jan. 27, 1

Warren H. Miller Esq.
Buffalo, N.Y.
Dear Sir:

Mr. Rathbun kindly informs me that you are willing to try to sell for me a piece of property. I happen to own in Perry Ste. near Ave. A. a description of the same you will find enclosed.

Will you be good enough to tell me what you think this property worth, and what your commissions are in case of a sale? I am not quite sure whether I would prefer to sell the whole lot, or half of it, at this time.

Hoping to hear from you shortly, I am,

Respectfully
C. Mark Morrison —

(2)

Washington, D.C.
May 29, 1888.

Mr. R. B. Sharpe.

Keyden Sir:

Soon after coming to Washington to live I found that I had no further use for my collection of birds (about 2000 skins), the Smithsonian collection being available at all times. Hence an arrangement was made with Mr. H.W. Henshaw by which my collection was incorporated with his, which now numbers about 11500 skins. For the last ten years this collection has been kept in the Smithsonian in cases adjoining those containing the National Museum series. During this period it has been in constant use by Mr. Ridgway, & particularly in the preparation of his Manual of N. Am. Birds, which work contains the following notice of it: "Special mention should be made of Mr. Henshaw's valuable collection

(1)

Mr. Henshaw, as you may be aware, is now at the head of the Bureau of Ethnology under Major Powell, and has no time for ornithological work. Hence he is willing to sell his collection, though it is not openly offered for sale. He says $11,000. at this price, I think he would take $10.000. if a reasonable amount were paid cash, the balance in one or two years. His egg collection (about 1200 specimens) will be thrown in.

I thought the British Museum might desire to possess so authoritative and extensive a series of N. Am. Birds, and hence have taken the liberty to write you thus fully in regard to it. An immediate reply would be appreciated.

Mr. Henshaw refers by permission to Messrs. Ridgway & Dr. Stejneger in regard to any points which may arise relating to the collection.

Very truly Yours
C. Hart Merriam.

Please consider this letter confidential

June 4, 1888.

(Private.)

Dear Doctor Dawson:

On Saturday I returned to you by registered mail the red-backed Mouse which you were kind enough to loan me for examination. I kept it longer than expected because it proved of unusual interest. It is not Evotomys rutilus proper at all, but pertains to the Asiatic species. It is considerably different from any specimen of Evotomys that has yet come under my notice, and certainly is entitled to specific separation. I have taken the liberty, therefore, to describe it under the name of Evotomys dawsoni. If you desire to have this description published in any Canadian journal, please let me know, and I shall be glad to comply with your wishes. Otherwise I will publish it in some of our biological publications.

Unfortunately the skull was so badly smashed that it was impossible to determine any peculiarities it might have possessed. The teeth, however, were perfect, and I have had an excellent drawing made of them, magnified ten times. The fragments of the skull, together with the portions of jaws containing the teeth, you will find in the little glass-covered box inside.

Thanking you for the privilege of examining this unusually interesting Mouse, I remain,

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

Dr. George M. Dawson,
Ass't Director Geological Survey of Canada,
Ottawa, Canada.

Original Defective

June 10, 1878.

Dear Doctor Dohrn:

The box of Chromis arrived in due time and, in compliance with your request, I handed Mrs Trask three ~~hundred~~ belonging to the U.S. National Museum, and transmitted to Mr. Agassiz three belonging to the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge. I should have written you sooner that I have been trying to clear up a few doubtful points concerning the identity of some of my own specimens. In this box was a small flask containing four specimens labelled 2 of S. ferruginea and 2 of S. ferruginea. One of the ferruginea labelled that was marked "Monrovia" written lengthwise of it is written "Monrovia" which I suppose means Monrovia.

Then there is a small round "W" which in your letter you say is ferruginea from Liberia. But I never had a Chromis (Glyphisodon, Abudefduf or Heliases) coming from Liberia. Can you explain?

The skull of S. occidentalis from Montana (Museum No. 1091) you have numbered "1878". The number should be 4861. I cannot find any skull numbered to correspond to four of the skeletons from which the skulls have been extracted. There are 782, 783 from Carberry, Manitoba; and 1161 and 1186 from Mount Ernest.

The type of S. occidentalis (alopekis), should be 1892 instead of 132. The number was so faded that the first 1 could hardly be made out. Its skull number is 4889.

There are two skulls of "hays" in small tubes besides labeled Mount Ernest. One is numbered 890 (skull should be 4891); the other has no number save any means of identifying it with any skeletons, from one of which I suppose it came.

I enclose a tabular statement which will show you exactly which skulls I have which I cannot identify, and which may enable you to help me out with some of the uncertainties.

I am very much obliged for the shown sheets of the two plates containing figures

of the teeth of American shrews. It is much to be regretted that your duties sometimes so far as to delay longer than publication of this eminently useful manuscript, and I hope you will be able to print at least preliminary descriptions of your new species from North America so that we can make use of them in our work.

Assuming that you will find a pleasant home at Brighton, and that you freedom from military duties will shorten your sojourn there, I remain

Very truly yours

C. Hart Merriam

Dr. Oldfield Thomas, F.R.S.
Brighton, England

P.S. There is not enough to connect the skull numbers of my specimens, so that your notes may correspond to the numbers in my collection.

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Locality.		
[illegible]	4856	747	Carberry, Manitoba	figured	B. fertaria
[illegible]	[illegible]	752	" "	"	" ferrenatus
[illegible]	"		" "		" "
[illegible]	[illegible]	890	Locust Grove, Ark.		" hanja
1001	4861	1886	Mt. Custer, Montana	figured	" nervicana
1161	[illegible]		Locust Grove		" ferrenatus
1186	"		" "		" "
1132	4859	132	Nicasio, Cal.		" nicasiensis
1197	4860		Chimehalis, Wash.		" fertaria
1264	4863		"		" ferrenatus

June 24, 1888.

Dear Mr. Sharpe:

Your cablegram reached me promptly and your letter of the 9th inst has now arrived. I replied to the latter by cable, granting the refund after the collection until the end of the month, as desired.

Mr. Henshaw was reluctant to grant this time, because he never has a chance to sell the collection at once. However, he consented.

I called Mr. Henshaw's attention to that part of your letter relating to his types of Stacey etc. He says that his descriptions were based on both the National Museum material and his own, augmented for the occasion by contributions from several private collections. The particular specimens selected for the types were usually chosen from the National Museum

series, because Mr. Beecham has always maintained that it is in the interest of science to be able to find as many types as possible in the National Museum. Practically, however, most of the types are duplicated in his own collection. As stated in my previous letter, Mr. Beecham's aim has always been in the direction of securing exhaustive series. When he had the option of a species new to his collection, or a phase of plumage unrepresented among his series of the species, the latter specimen was always the one taken.

Mr. H. is going to Cala. in a few weeks and wants to complete the sale before leaving Washington. He has undertaken to relabel his collection. About 6 or 7 thousand skins are ready for immediate shipment, together with the eggs. The remainder of the skins he will finish relabeling & packing on his return. They are now in the Smithsonian building where they will remain until shipped.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

Washington, D.C.
July 31, 1896.

Anyhow, Mr. Beecham's letter of July 24th & 6 or 7 thousand skins would be a big haul for the collection — only the remainder would be worthless (to Mr. Beecham) when I came California.

Mean, however, Mr. Beecham has decided to ship the entire collection & owner, and it would be a shame to have the stock of Anseriformes in the collection — only the remainder would be worthless (to Mr. Beecham) when I came California.

Mean, however, Mr. Beecham has decided to ship the entire collection & owner, and it would be a shame to have the stock of Anseriformes in the collection — only the remainder would be worthless (to Mr. Beecham) when I came California.

Mr. Beecham will write you in a few days in regard to shipments &c.

Nothing stirring here. Collection will leave Jan. — and stock of specimens in England will shortly be in the hands of Anseriformes the carriers of Anseriformes.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe
British Museum

July 20, 8

Dear Mr. Trumbull:

This morning I was delighted by the receipt of your very kind letter of the 17th inst. accompanying a copy of your long looked for book entitled "Names and Portraits of Birds which interest Farmers."

Your plain english descriptions are admirable so far as I have examined them, and the arrangement and typography of the text are well adapted to the purpose for which they were intended. The illustrations are the best I have seen from sheffards pencil and add immensely to the utility of the book.

I cannot help expressing my gratification to see that you have resisted the temptation to publish a "sumptuous" volume, but instead have given us a plain, handy book that everybody can afford to buy, & that is not too heavy to be carried about in one's travelling bag.

The only general criticism I have to offer is that the usefulness & interest of the book would have been still further enhanced had the common english names of birds been printed in heavy type instead of being relegated to the end of the scientific [illegible]

[illegible] your visit many known to me [illegible] the pleasure of your visit to [illegible] collection. [illegible] to see your [illegible] and to [illegible] with you [illegible] Richmond & Hudson [illegible] Both [illegible] I [illegible] a visit to the collection. [illegible] collection [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

July 24, 8

Mrs Dear Brewster:

On receipt of your letter this morning I immediately went to see Leale. He had not yet come to the museum so I telephoned to his house & waited till he arrived. He advised me to see the Secretary of the Treasury. So I went up to the Treasury and made a statement of the case. He told that if I would put this statement in writing and repeat the story to telegraph orders to the customs officer at El Paso the order would go by mid-night. Thus I have done, and I suppose the box of skins will start on its way to Cambridge before dark tonight.

Do you want a few eggs of Christian flamingos to accompany the skins reserved for you at Mr. Wis request?

Very truly yours
A. Hart Merriam—

July 24, 8

Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Dear Sirs:

In reply to your letter of the 20th inst. concerning the publication of my sister's manuscript entitled 'Reds through an opera Glass', I would say that you are at liberty to retain the ms. for three weeks or longer. My sister is now in San Francisco, where I expect to join her shortly. Letters addressed to me here will be forwarded.

Respectfully

E. North Merriam

July 24, 8

My dear Doctor Adams:

Thanks for your letter of the 19th inst which reached me yesterday.

By the aid of your memoranda I shall be able to straighten out the preliminary uncertain points in regard to the identity of these Lepas shells.

Am very sorry to know that you are still feeling so miserably, and trust you will soon enjoy better health.

Can you not manage to publish soon a brief preliminary paper on our American shells, just to establish your priority? Neither Dana nor I want to touch the group until we can refer to your work, but it is daily becoming more & more necessary to have something printed on our shells.

With kind regards.

Very truly yours
C. Frank Millerson

Washington, D. C., July 25, 1888.

Miss A. S. Babcock,
1688, Thirteenth St., N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

In reply to your inquiry as to my opinion of the mental condition of Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, U. S. A., I beg to state that a little over a year ago I had some correspondence with Dr. Shufeldt which led me to believe him to be of unsound mind. Previous to this occasion I had been on terms of personal friendship with Dr. Shufeldt, and on the occasion in question wrote him a friendly letter, asking him to desist from a course which was greatly injuring his reputation as a scientific man. In reply I received a letter from him, abounding in such insolent and abusive language, and carrying with it the idea of such excessive egotism on his part as to be entirely inexplicable on any other supposition than that he was insane.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Washington, D.C.
July 28, 1888.

Dear Mr. Gray:

Enclosed please find my check for $288 in part of balance due you for services as architect as per statement of Jan 20th inst.

In closing our account I wish to thank you, both for your kindness in granting me as much time, and for your constant watchfulness of my interests during and after the contract of my house.

With kind regards.

Very truly yours.
E. Clark Morrison

To
Wm. Bruce Gray Esq.
Architect, Washington D.C.

October 26, 1888.

Dr. Peter Collier,

Director State Agricultural Experiment Station,

Geneva, New York.

Dear Sir:

For a number of years I have been collecting information relating to the ornithology of New York, and have now in hand a very large quantity of material on the subject, which from pressure of official work I am unable to put in shape for publication. It has occurred to me that by cooperation with the New York State Experiment Station it might be possible to work up a part of this material at an early date. If you favor the idea, my plan would be to prepare an annotated catalogue of the birds of New York, which should contain, under the head of each species, the following information:

1. Distribution of the species in the State.

2. Character of residence, namely, whether resident, summer resident, migrant, or winter visitant.

3. Period of presence if non-resident, with dates of arrival and departure in different parts of the State.

4. Food-habits, and resulting economic status of the species.

Such a catalogue would be of much practical value to farmers, and would be useful to a very large number of people. It would contain no technical matter except the scientific names of the species, which would follow their common English names. Of course such a work could be easily enlarged to any desired extent by the insertion of matter relating to the time of nesting, kind and position of nest, number of eggs, period of song, and general habits; but from the standpoint of the agriculturist I think the data contained in the four headings above suggested would be most important.

We are now cooperating with the West Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station in the preparation of a similar catalogue, the main difference being that in the case of West Virginia most of the money furnished by the Board had to be expended in field work, as next to nothing was known of the birds of the State. In the case of New York, on the contrary, most of the field work has been done, and what is needed is funds to work up and prepare for publication the material now in hand. If the necessary money could be obtained, the work could be done here under my immediate supervision, and turned over to you when ready for publication.

If you favor this scheme I shall be pleased to hear from you at your early convenience.

Respectfully,

E. Mark Sherman

(Dictated.)

November 3, 1888.

(Dictated.)

Dr. Peter Collier,

Director New York State
Agricultural Exp't Station,

Geneva, N. Y.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 31st ultimo is at hand, and I am much pleased to know that you regard with favor my proposition to co-operate with you in the preparation of an Annotated Catalogue of the Birds of New York State. In regard to your question as to how much money it would be necessary for you to contribute I would say that this will depend largely upon the time when you wish the report to be ready for publication. If we could receive say $1200 between now and July 1st next, I would agree to deliver to you on that date the Catalogue ready for the printer, said Catalogue to contain the information described under the four headings mentioned in my previous letter. Should your Station be unable to contribute this amount during the present fiscal year, and still be able to contribute something, I would begin the work and would do as much as possible with the available funds, expecting to complete it the following year.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

November 17, 1888.

Mr. William Brewster,

Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Council of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in Washington, D. C., November 12, 1888, it was

"Resolved, That the Council recommend to the Union the appointment of a Committee to revise the status of the species and subspecies described since the publication of the Code and Check List, and the proposed eliminations and emendations of nomenclature, with a view to the publication of a Supplement to the A. O. U. Check List, and a new and abridged edition of the Check List as so revised."

At the first meeting of the Sixth Congress of the Union, held in Washington, D. C., November 13, 1888, on motion of Mr. Cory, it was

"Resolved, That the matter of revising the status of the species and subspecies, genera and subgenera described since the publication of the A. O. U. Code and Check List, and the proposed eliminations of species and subspecies, and emendations of nomenclature, be referred to the Committee on Publication, with power to publish the results in the form of a Supplement to the Check List, in the same style and form as regards matter and typography as the Check List itself; and to incorporate the substance of the same in the abridged edition of the Check List already ordered by the Council."

The Committee on Publication consists of the President and Secretary *ex officio*, and of Messrs. Brewster, Coues, and Ridgway, elected from the Council. The President, Mr. Allen, has decided

to remain here to meet with the Committee, in order that the work of revision may be completed at an early date, so that the abridged edition of the Check List may be published at once. Your attendance at the meetings of the Committee is essential to the successful completion of the work in hand, and it is earnestly hoped that you will meet the other members of the Committee in this city as early in the week as possible.

Respectfully,

Ernest Harrison -

Secretary A. O. U.

(Dictated.)

December 5, 1888.

Messrs. Tuttle, Morehouse, & Taylor,

New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sirs:

The American Ornithologists' Union is about to publish a new edition of its Check List of North American Birds, similar in style of type and size of page to the enclosed sample. It is to be printed on one side of the page only, and will cover about 100 pages. The edition will be 2000 copies. It is to be printed on 70 lb. ss. & c. A. I. book paper which will take ink well, with 40 lb. cover. If you would like to print this Check List, we shall be pleased to receive an estimate.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Sec. A.O.U.

(Dictated.)

December 8, 1888.

Mr. L. O. Howard,

Assistant Entomologist,

U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your inquiry concerning the occurrence of Cuterebrae in Squirrels, I would state that during many years collecting in the Adirondack region of northern New York, particularly along its western border, in the Black River Valley, I frequently found Cuterebrae in or near the scrotum in the Gray Squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis leucotis), Red Squirrel (Sciurus hudsonius), and Chipmunk (Tamias striatus lysteri). I have observed the same thing at Easthampton, Mass., and in other localities. The most extraordinary instance of the prevalence of this disgusting parasite that has fallen under my observation was at the south end of Lake Champlain, New York, in October, 1885. On the 7th and 9th of that month I killed more than fifty Chipmunks (Tamias striatus lysteri) within a few miles of old Fort Ticonderoga, and on the rocky side hill behind the town of Whitehall. Of these a very large percentage -- I think fully one-half -- were infested with 'wabbles' (Cuterebrae). More females than males were thus afflicted. The 'wabbles' were usually situated near the median line, and anywhere

from the umbilical region to the genitals; in a few cases they were in the axilla, and in one or two instances in the upper part of the foreleg. In a number of individuals two Cuterebræ were found, and in a few cases as many as three.

Dr. A. K. Fisher tells me that he collected a number of Chipmunks about the south end of Lake George, Warren County, N. Y., during the latter part of August and first of September, in 1882, a considerable proportion of which were infested with Cuterebræ. As many as three were found, in different stages of development, in one animal. A Gray Squirrel killed at Sing Sing, Westchester County, N. Y., contained a Cuterebra in the left pectoral region.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam.

Ornithologist.

(Dictated.)

December 11, 1888.

My dear Mr. Roosevelt:

I am very much obliged for your kindness in sending me your manuscript notes on the habits of the Short-tailed Shrew(Blarina brevicauda). I have had a type-written copy of these notes made, and return the original herewith.

I am sorry you lost that Shrew near Kootenay Lake. You are undoubtedly right in considering it a species of Neosorex. I never saw one alive.

I came very near seeing you last summer at Medora. I was there about August 10, and was told that you were expected at that time. I went west by the Northern Pacific, and spent some time in the Puget Sound region. Have you ever visited Pend Oreille Lake ? It seems to me that this region promises much, both from the standpoint of the hunter and from that of the naturalist.

Incidentally, in your interesting popular writings, you have made many records of very great value to naturalists, particularly concerning the presence of species at points remote from the previously known limits of their distribution; and it would be very surprising if you have not encountered some undescribed species of

mammals during your wanderings. I would give a good deal to see the Hoary Marmot you found on the Coeur d' Alene Mountains. The Kootenay region is one I have long wanted to visit, and hope that I may be so fortunate within a few years.

Are you never coming to Washington ? Would like much to see you here.

Again thanking you for your kindness in placing these notes at my disposal, I remain,

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Hon. Theodore Roosevelt,
Oyster Bay, N. Y.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Prof. S. P. Langley,
Secy. Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

E. Nort Morrison

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Dr. Washington Matthews,
Army Medical Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Mr. John Murdoch,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely oblived.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Dr. James C. Welling,
President, Columbian University,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully.

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Mr. Richard Rathbun,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Mr. Henry W. Henshaw,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

December 15, 1888.

Prof. S. P. Langley,

Secretary Smithsonian Institution,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The Joint Committee charged with the arrangements for the course of Saturday Lectures beginning March 9, 1889, respectfully request the use of the Lecture Hall of the National Museum, together with the customary cooperation in the publication and distribution of programmes.

Very respectfully,

E. Hart Morrison

Secretary Lecture Committee.

(Dictated.)

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Prof. Daniel C. Gilman,
President, Johns Hopkins University,
Baltimore, Md.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committtee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Dr. J. H. Kidder,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9,1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Prof. Henry Newell Martin,
Johns Hopkins University,
Baltimore, Md.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. [illegible] Thurston

Secy. Lecture Committee.

P.S. I am told that you have on hand an admirable lecture on "The Eye".

Washington, D. C.
December 14, 1888.

Mr. G. K. Gilbert,
U. S. Geological Survey,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver, on some Geological subject, one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Prof. W. O. Atwater,
Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the ~~SEVERAL~~ I LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Original Defective

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1

Prof. W. O. Atwater,
Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the
Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical,
phic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed
to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the
SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

E. West Harrison

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 14, 1888.

Col. William L. Trenholm,
Comptroller of the Currency,
U. S. Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in March or April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

I have the honor to remain,

very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam.

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

December 24, 1888.

The Law Reporter Company of Washington City, by W. F. Roberts, Supt., hereby agrees to furnish two thousand(2,000) copies of the Revised Check List of North American Birds, consisting of 64 pages printed on one side of the leaf, on paper as per sample submitted (60 lb s.s. & c No. 1 Book), with paper cover, for the sum of two hundred and seventy-two dollars and fifty cents($272.50). Workmanship to be first class in all respects.

Extra pages at the rate of $4.08 per page.

Witness
H. H. Furbee

W. F. Roberts
Supt. Law Reporter Co.
C. Hart Merriam
Sec. A.O.U. & Com. on Rev. Revised Ch. of Check List.

January 2, 1889.

Prof. E. D. Cope,

Editor American Naturalist,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

The most terrible calamity that has ever befallen me in the publication line is the result of a very curious blunder on the part of some one connected with the printing of the American Naturalist. The July number of the Naturalist contains a paper of mine on a New Meadow Mouse of the subgenus Pedomys, accompanied by a figure of the skull and teeth, pp. 598-601. The August number of the Naturalist contains another paper, in which I describe a New Species of Arvicola, of the subgenus Chilotus, accompanied by a figure of the skull and teeth, pp. 702-705. By reference to pp. 599 and 704 you will see that the same cut has been made to serve the purpose of illustrating the peculiarities of craniology and dentition of both of these subgenera. There is no use in wasting time now in speaking of this unfortunate matter further than in the way of asking what may be done to remedy it. I would suggest that a brief correction, containing the proper cut of Chilotus, be pub-

lished in the next number of the Naturalist. Can you suggest any better way?

Was the cut of Chilotus ever reproduced at all? On the back of the original drawings, which you returned to me the other day, are numbers stamped in red ink. That of Arvicola minor is 3235-2, and that of Arvicola pallidus is 3242-? (this part has been trimmed off). In returning these figures you have cut off the explanatory matter under each one, so that as they reached me they bore neither name nor number. Curiously enough the legend under the printed figure of each skull is correct (with slight exceptions) for the species, but not for the drawing in the case of Chilotus.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam.

(Dictated.)

Washington, D. C.

January 8, 1889.

Prof. Asaph Hall,
U. S. Naval Observatory,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Washington, D. C.

January 3, 1889.

Prof. J. R. Eastman,
Pres., Philosophical Society,
U. S. Naval Observatory,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you will kindly signify the title of your lecture, and the Saturday afternoon in April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

January 3, 1889.

Prof. Edward S. Morse,
Director Peabody Acad. Science,
Salem, Massachusetts.

My dear sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

Knowing that the National Academy meets in Washington April 16th next, and assuming that you will be here at that time, I take the liberty to suggest that Saturday, April 20, 1889, would be a good date for a lecture.

If you are willing to favor your Washington friends in this way, and will kindly inform me of the subject of your lecture, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

January 5, 1889.

(Dictated.)

Dear Mr. Scudder:

Since the receipt of your letter of December 27, ultimo, I have looked over my Adirondack journals for records of Papilio turnus, but have found only the following, which is a verbatim copy:

Big Moose Lake, Adirondack Mountains, New York, June 16, 1883.

"The yellow form of Papilio turnus has been excessively abundant since we came into the woods [the second time], June 12, but there were none out June 4 [when I left the woods for a week]. Close by the Big Moose Camp Lodge I counted over seventy in one spot, and more than two hundred in another, on the ground where some one had urinated. Never saw so many before . . . . Vanesa antiopia is now scarce." (Adirondack Notes, Vol. 3, p. 68.)

I have other notes relating to this matter, but was unable to find them. Was surprised not to find mention of what I supposed to be the black form of Papilio turnus in the above record, for my recollection is that there was a small percentage of black butterflies with the others. In the Black River Valley, on the western border of the Adirondacks, I have many times seen a black butterfly which I always supposed to be Papilio turnus. Since the receipt of your letter, however, I have seen Mr. John B. Smith, and he has shown me Papilio troilus, which I now believe to be the species I

mistook for the black form of P. turnus. To make sure, I have written to a friend in Lewis County, N. Y., who has some butterflies in a case, and have asked for a specimen of the one in question. Will let you know the result.

In poking over my notes in search of this Papilio record I came across a number of notes relating to butterflies, particularly their time of appearance and greatest abundance in spring, in connection with the condition of leafing and flowering of plants. If you care for these, I should be glad to send them to you as soon as I can find time to copy them. Here is an example:

"June 18, 1879. Caught two Cecropia moths, and saw the first Papilio turnus. Viburnum lentago is in perfection now. Cornus alternifolia is still flowering profusely, though a little past its prime."

The great bulk of early spring records relate to Vanessa antiopa.

I wonder if you can tell me what has become of De Saussure's types of mammals. He published a paper on his Mexican mammals, in which a number of new species of Mice were described. I do not know where his types are, and am unable to identify his species. This is particularly unfortunate in connection with work along our southern border in Texas.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

Mr. Samuel H. Scudder,
Cambridge, Mass.

January 7, 1889.

(Dictated)

Dear Professor Cope:

Thanks for your letter of the 3d instant. Enclosed is the correction, together with the correct drawing of Chilotus.

Hoping that the Naturalist for 1889 will prove an improvement over that for 1888, I remain

Very truly yours,

E. Hart Merriam

Prof. E. D. Cope,

Editor American Naturalist,

Philadelphia, Pa.

A CORRECTION: ARVICOLA (CHILOTUS) PALLIDUS.--The August number of the AMERICAN NATURALIST contains a description of the above-named species (vol. xxii,1888, pp. 702-705). Through a most unfortunate blunder on the part of the late printers of the magazine, the illustration accompanying this description (p. 704), instead of being the drawing sent with the manuscript, is a figure of Arvicola (Pedomys) minor, which was published with a description of that species in the preceding number of the NATURALIST (July, 1888, p. 599), the same cut being made to illustrate two very distinct subgenera ! The accompanying figure is that of Arvicola (Chilotus) pallidus, and should be substituted for that on p. 704 of the August number. In the lettering under the skull of Arvicola (Pedomys) minor, p. 599, the skull number is given as 2245. It should be 2224.

C. Hart Merriam -

January 9, 1889.

Mr. J. B. Ferree,

501 Chestnut St.,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 8th instant I would say that the statement referred to in my correction, and to which you object, was made by Prof. Cope. If the case is as you state it, you may strike out the words "on the part of the late printers of the magazine", leaving the sentence, "Through a most unfortunate blunder the illustration accompanying this description"-- &c.

I certainly have no desire to put the responsibility for this blunder where it does not belong, and would rather omit locating the blame altogether than run the risk of so doing.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

(Dictd. ed.)

P.S. Please send me 200 copies of this correction to go with the separates I have of the original article.

C.H.M.

Jan. 9, 1889.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
Boston, Mass

Dear Sirs:

The enclosed MS. has been sent me by my sister, Miss. Florence A. Merriam, now in San Francisco, with the request that I forward it to you as an 'Appendix' to her little book.

She desires me, also, to correspond with you in regard to the matter of illustrations, and anything else that may come up in connection with the book if you accept it for publication.

Can you not obtain, from Little, Brown & Co., electrotypes of a number of the fac-simile signatures used by them in Baird, Brewer & Ridgway's History of North American Birds? If so, I will send you a list of those desired.

Respectfully,
C. Hart Merriam

January 12, 1889.

Dr. James M. Flint,
Care of Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

At the last meeting of the Lecture Committee of the Joint Commission of the Anthropological, Biological, Chemical, Geographic, and Philosophical Societies of this City, I was instructed to extend to you a cordial invitation to deliver one of the SATURDAY LECTURES of the Course beginning March 9, 1889.

If you are willing to favor the Committee by complying with this request, and will kindly signify the title of your lecture and the Saturday afternoon in April which will best suit your convenience, I shall be extremely obliged.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Secy. Lecture Committee.

Jan. 14/01.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of the 11th inst is before me. In response to your request for a list of eight cuts from Baird, Brewer & Ridgway's History of North American Birds I take pleasure in making the same. I take the liberty also to name eight more, in a supplemental list. Should the cost of these electrotypes not greatly exceed the usual cost of such illustrations I shall be glad to bear the additional expense incurred in the purchase of the eight last named. Kindly inform me as to the amount. I should much like to see galley proofs of these heads, & will return the same promptly. Kindly

CUTS FROM BAIRD, BREWER AND RIDGWAY.

Vol. I.

	page
Robin.	.25
Nuthatch	.115
Barn Swallow	.339

Vol. II.

Bobolink	.149
Crow Blackbird.	215
Kingfisher.	393
Nighthawk.	.401
Hairy Woodpecker. . . .	502

SUPPLEMENTAL LIST.

Vol. I.

Ovenbird	.280
Redstart.	323
Yellowbird.	472

Vol.II.

Chewink.	.104
Meadowlark.	171
Blue Jay	.274
Cuckoo.	..477
Flicker.	.579

January 17, 1889.

Dr. George M. Dawson,

Assistant Director,
Geological Survey of Canada,

Ottawa, Canada.

My dear Doctor Dawson:

Since writing you last I have made a somewhat critical study of the mouse you sent me from Kamloops, with the result of establishing a new subgenus for its reception, as you will see from the enclosed account, which I will be obliged to you if you will return promptly.

I assume that you wish me to return the remains of this specimen. If so, will you kindly give me the number which it will bear in your Museum Catalogue? Does your Museum give skulls and skins of the same specimen the same number, or have you a separate Osteological Catalogue? If the latter, please give me both numbers. You will see what I mean by referring to a number of the type specimen in any of my separates previously sent you.

In the case of your new Red-backed Mouse from the Liard River country I was unable to mention the number, owing to Mr. Whiteaves' absence from Ottawa. In the present advanced state of science in

these matters it is somewhat of a reflection of incompetence upon the describer of a species who does not mention the museum or collection to which it belongs, along with its catalogue number.

Very truly yours,

E. Mayr Chrisman

(Dictated.)

Jan. 28/87.

D. Appleton & Co.
New York
Dear Sirs:

I am making up a couple of scrap books of my published papers and am anxious to procure copies of my articles in your Physical Geography, pp. 100-106, and 134-137. As the matter here is printed on both sides of the page I shall have to get 4 copies in order to make two. Can you send me separately two sheets containing these above pages? If not, at what price can you supply me with 4 copies of the Geography?

Resp'y
C. Hart Merriam

Feb. 8, 1889.

Mr. J. R. Bransford
Secy. Cal. Acad. Sci.

Dear Sir:

Your communication of the 25th ultimo, informing me of my election as a correspondent of the California Academy of Sciences, has just reached me. It is hardly necessary to say that I accept with pleasure, and shall be glad to contribute from time to time for your publication, should such contributions prove acceptable.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

February 9, 1889.

Hon. Charles B. Farwell,
U. S. Senate.

Sir:

A little more than three years ago I came here to organize and take charge of a Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy in the Department of Agriculture. I did not expect to stay more than a year, as my salary was one-third less than I was receiving at the time. However, owing mainly to the difficulty of securing a competent person to carry on the work, I have remained, and have become much interested in the investigations in hand, particularly those relating to the Geographical Distribution of Species. The annual appropriation for the Division has been so small, and has been so largely consumed in collecting evidence relating to the English Sparrow and rice bird problems, that very little was left for the work on Geographic Distribution. This latter work, as you know, can only be completed by the employment of trained field agents. It being impossible to make satisfactory progress with the very limited funds available, I have personally helped the work along by expending more than one thousand dollars each year in payment for local collections which serve to illustrate points in the distribution of the species concerned. I cannot afford to continue this expenditure. Moreover, during the past year I have been offered three positions, any one of which is better than the one I now hold in the Department. Before deciding as to future movements I am anxious to know whether or not Congress will grant the means of continuing the investigations upon which the Division is engaged. This work is of the utmost consequence from the standpoint of ex-

perimental agriculture, and I shall be glad to remain in charge provided sufficient money is appropriated to carry it on creditably.

The Commissioner of Agriculture has this day written a letter to Senator Plumb, Chairman of the Sub-Committee charged with the consideration of House Bill No. 12,485, making an appropriation for the Department of Agriculture &c., urging that line 23, page 9, of said Bill be amended by striking out the words "four thousand dollars" and substituting therefor the words "ten thousand dollars, one thousand of which shall be made immediately available".

Trusting that you will be willing to aid in the passage of this amendment, I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully yours,

E. Hart Merriam.

Feb. 14, 1911.

Mr. J. W. Gidley,
Curator, Dept. of Mammals,
U. S. National Museum.

Dear Mr. Gidley:

Your communication of the 13th inst. has just reached me and is a great surprise in view of the fact that soon after coming here, a little more than three years ago, I made formal written application to the director of the Museum, and received permission to borrow from time to time such specimens of mammals as I wished to study. If this permission, granted by Prof. Baird, has been withdrawn, or has expired by limitation, it seems strange that I have not been notified of the fact, particularly since there has hardly been a month during the past three years when I have not had more or less Museum material in my possession.

The skulls I am now at work upon are those of the Arvicolinæ. I believe I have not taken more than four skulls at any

one third, and that I have not kept any skull longer than 36 hours. I am having camera lucida drawings made of the teeth, enlarged about 15 diameters. All of this is in accord with a communication I had with you on the subject before taking the first skull.

Very truly yours,

E. Nott Marion -

Feb. 14/89.

Mr. Geo. H. Ragsdale
Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 7th inst offering to send me certain mammal skins "on approval" I would say that you may send the following: 2 mink Cats; 1 Common Rabbit; 1 Gray Squirrel; 1 Musk Rat; 1 Eastern Rat; Shrew & Hermaphrodites 13-lineatus.

Resp.

C. Hart Merriam

Washington, D.C.
Feb. 26, 1899.

My dear Grinnell:

Enclosed is your synonymy of Mazama mantana. There are still a few references I was not able to verify. Some of these I can find later as the books are in Washington.

Hope you will be able to make out my corrections.

Have had considerable difficulty in hunting up some of the necessary books. Have visited the Congressional Library in person three times, but still failed to get hold of all of them.

Some were hard to get a catch name from, as you will see in Richardson's Zool. of the Herald.

I very much regret the delay in sending you this synonymy. The trouble is that I have been sick three weeks with bronchitis and bowel troubles and have been overwhelmed with official work all the time.

Ramsay Wright is a prof. in the Toronto University. He was brought over from England and is said to be a strong man. He wrote the part on Ungulates in Standard Nat. Hist.

Am not surprised that you have a big batch of material in hand for the Nat. Hist. dept. of H.H. Schuffeldt's voluminous collections of falsehoods & misstatements which you publish in such style nearly

March 8, 1889.

Mydear Prof. Brewer:

My object in writing you at this time is to urge you to accept the assistant secretaryship of this department if it is offered you, as I believe it will be within twenty four hours, or a few days at latest.

I do not know how much you know about the great facilities in the way of enlarging and developing the dept. of Agriculture, but I assure you that if you are here it is likely to become the Govt. Bureau of Scientific Research in the near future! Next year the Geological Survey, Fish Commission and Weather Bureau are likely to drop into it [illegible] the right man is at the helm — and I need hardly tell you that the Scientific men here are a unit in your support for the position.

Shortly — perhaps before this letter reaches

[illegible] much more should
write, I only commend a matter
to your attention.

I am very truly yours
[illegible]

Hon. [illegible]
Washington, D.C.

Washington
March 7, 1892.

Dear Mr. Langley:

Your kind letter in regard to the lectures came duly to hand. I will endeavor to meet the Institution in just such a manner as will accomplish the greatest amount of good to the greatest number. I am also desirous of meeting the wishes of the Smithsonian Institution, and will endeavor to keep in touch with the Secretary, and with the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents.

Could you not arrange to have the lectures delivered in Washington, as well as in New York? I am sure that a large audience could be secured here, and I would be glad to have the opportunity of meeting the people of Washington.

Yours truly,
C. Hart Merriam.

you — it may be in your power not only to shape the future of this department, but also, I believe, to exert a tremendous influence upon the direction and character of the various scientific investigations carried on by our Government.

This is a critical time. The opportunity is at hand, and you are the man to guide the ship.

You know from others that Atwater, Alvord, and all the Agricultural men want you; so I shall only tell you that Powell, Emmett, Goode, Dall, Harris, & a host of others believe that you are the only man for the place, and that the opportunity to do good is so great that you cannot refuse.

There are no who have worked day and night to secure your appointment think we have a right to ask and urge you to accept. Do not disappoint us

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam.

March 13, 1889.

Dear Mr. Palmer:

The outlook brightens for our work on the Geographical distribution of species, and I hope to be able to make it the means of training up a small school of "systematic naturalists". In do this, it is necessary to head off and divert into other channels a small part of the current that for the last few years has been steadily flowing into the modern Biological schools where microscopy, histology, embryology, and physiology have been forced into the foreground, driving out the kind of work which made such men as Cuvier, Lamarck, Humboldt, Agassiz, Darwin, Huxley, Dana and a host of others. At the present time there are too many highly specialized specialists and altogether too few "all round" naturalists.

I want to get hold of a few sturdy, honest, intelligent young men who are

of specialized in natural science by scientific investigation of the principles of science. What is the principle of specialization? Why it is to get the greatest amount of knowledge in the shortest time by dividing up the work so that each man can do his part to the best advantage. Specialization is not the end but the means to the end. But it is the means to the end. Specialization is not the end but the means to the end. But it is the means to the end. Specialization is not the end but the means to the end. But it is the means to the end

not afraid of anything and who are willing to begin at the bottom of the ladder with the intention of climbing higher year by year, and of devoting their lives to biological work. I believe you and Keeler are of this stamp. You are the first to whom I have spoken

If both of you cannot ~~start~~ come perhaps one will be able to get away on the coast trip the last of this month.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam —

S.B. Palmer
Berkeley, Cal.

March 19, 1889.

Dr. Robert Collett,

Christiania, Norway.

My dear Sir:

For some time past I have been engaged in preparing a monograph on the Arvicolinæ. Of this group I have in my private collection between three and four hundred specimens, among which are several new species and one new genus. In order to complete my studies of this group I am anxious to examine as many as possible of its European representatives, particularly those of the genus Arvicola. I take the liberty to ask, therefore, if you would like to exchange specimens of the European species for American. While particularly anxious to complete my series of the genus Arvicola, I am anxious to obtain all the Lemmings also. Should you desire to make an exchange, I can supply you with skins and skulls of most of the American species. I desire skins and skulls -- not alcoholics.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam —

Chief of Division of
Economic Ornithology & Mammalogy.

(Dictated)

March 19, 1889.

Dr. Robert Collett,

Christiania, Norway.

My dear Sir:

For some time past I have been engaged in preparing a monograph on the Arvicolinae. Of this group I have in my private collection between three and four hundred specimens, among which are several new species and one new genus. In order to complete my studies of this group I am anxious to examine as many as possible of its European representatives, particularly those of the genus Arvicola. I take the liberty to ask, therefore, if you would like to exchange specimens of the European species for American. While particularly anxious to complete my series of the genus Arvicola, I am anxious to obtain all the Lemmings also. Should you desire to make an exchange, I can supply you with skins and skulls of most of the American species. I desire skins and skulls -- not alcoholics.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Chief of Division of
Economic Ornithology & Mammalogy.

(Dictated.)

March 18, 1889.

(Dictated.)

Dr. Henri de Saussure,
Genthod, pres Geneve,
Switzerland.

My dear Sir:

For some time past I have been engaged upon a monograph of the North American species of the genus Hesperomys. In studying specimens from the southern border of the United States and from Mexico I am much perplexed because of the difficulty of positively identifying the species described by you from Mexico. In a group in which the various forms approach one another so closely as in the genus Hesperomys it is almost impossible to positively determine the status of the species without actual comparison. I write, therefore, to ask if the types of the species described by you are still in existence, and if so, in what museum they are preserved. Would it be possible for me to obtain the loan of them for comparison? If so, I would return them promptly.

Awaiting a reply, I have the honor to remain,

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Chief of Division of
Economic Ornithology & Mammalogy.

April 2, 1889.

Dear Mr. Goode:

I beg to call your attention to the dangerous manner in which skulls of small mammals are kept in the National Museum. They are arranged in small paper trays in drawers, and as a natural result of this arrangement many jaws are transposed and many have been lost. It is an every-day occurrence to find in a single tray parts of two or three skulls, sometimes belonging to different genera, while it is of equally frequent occurrence to find a skull unaccompanied by its jaws, or with one jaw only.

For instance, the small tray containing the skull of an Arvicola, no. 1969, is before me as I write. This tray contains, in addition to the skull and one jaw of no. 1969, two other jaws (nos. 1680 and 12170--the latter belonging to a different sub-family of the Muridae). The most unfortunate circumstance of all is that skulls of TYPES are mixed in with the rest, sometimes without any discriminating mark, and in more than one instance portions of these types have been lost.

It seems hardly necessary to urge that small skulls should be kept in glass tubes.

In this connection I take the liberty also to state that Prof. Baird's system of putting both skull and skin number, in the form of a fraction, on every label is not now adhered to, so that it is impossible in many cases to connect a skull with the skin to which it belongs. Full data are rarely to be found on recent labels either of skins or skulls, and reference to the catalogue seldom supplements the information contained on the labels.

Very truly,

C. Hart Merriam.

Washington
April 5, 1889.

My dear Major Alvord:

Your letter of yesterday in regard to the lectures emphasizes my remissness in not replying before to your former very kind letter.

The truth is I am completely overwhelmed with work, day and night, and do not see how I can possibly take the time to prepare a single lecture. In fact, I have recently declined several invitations to lecture.

At the same time I do not want to disappoint you. Neither do I want to lose an

April 24, 1889.

Dr. James C. Welling,
President Columbian University,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In compliance with your request I take pleasure in transmitting herewith a brief statement of the work of the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy, from the standpoint suggested.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

(Dictated.)

Retake of Preceding Frame

April 24, 1889.

Dr. James C. Welling,
President Columbian University,
Washington, D. C.

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Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

(Dictated.)

DIVISION OF ECONOMIC ORNITHOLOGY AND MAMMALOGY, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy of the Department of Agriculture is an excellent example of a branch of Government in which investigations in pure science are carried on hand in hand with economic work.

The Division was established by Congress for the purpose of studying the geographical distribution, migrations, and food-habits of North American birds and mammals. It has been divided into two principal subdivisions, namely: (1) SECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION; and (2) SECTION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

The section of Geographical Distribution is now engaged in mapping the exact range of every known species of North American bird and mammal. In the case of birds, the breeding range, winter range, and range during migration are indicated by different colors. The large base maps of the Geological Survey are used, and a separate map is devoted to each species. Faunal maps are made by combining a large number of species maps. In making such combinations it is found that a considerable percentage of the species maps fall into certain well defined categories whose color patches are essentially coincident. The composite resulting from the coordination of these maps may be held to represent the natural faunal areas of

a country. Several such areas may be characterized by the common possession of species not found elsewhere, and may be combined to constitute a faunal province; several provinces a region; and several regions a realm, or primary zoo-geographical division of the earth's surface.

The information exhibited on these maps is obtained by collation of published records, by examination of museum specimens, and by work in the field, the latter being by far the most important. After charting the information derived from the two first mentioned sources, the gaps in the knowledge of the range of the various species at once become apparent, and field agents are sent out to complete the record. The collections made by these field agents consist mainly of mammals and birds, but include reptiles and some other groups. They are of the utmost value, not alone on account of the information they afford on the geographical range of the species, but because of their importance in a systematic study of the species themselves. After they have been worked up by the Division the specimens are turned over to the National Museum, where they become a part of the permanent collections of that institution.

The Section of Economic Relations has to do primarily with the food-habits of birds and mammals; but since the habits of nearly related species differ in different parts of the country, it becomes necessary to identify with exactness the species and subspecies concerned. As the task of discriminating and defining the multitude

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The Section of Economic Relations has to do primarily with the food-habits of birds and mammals; but since the habits of nearly related species differ in different parts of the country, it becomes necessary to identify with exactness the species and subspecies concerned. As the task of discriminating and defining the multitude

of species and subspecies of North American mammals and birds has not been completed, particularly in the former group, a large amount of purely technical work is necessary in order to tie down the economic results to the species and subspecies to which they actually belong. In the treatment of special groups--such for instance as the Gophers, Ground Squirrels, and Mice--the technical work amounts to a critical monographic revision of these groups, based on the study of a very large quantity of material, partly brought together by the investigations of the Division, and partly contained in the National Museum and other large collections. The Division is now engaged in the preparation of several important illustrated bulletins, treating of special groups, in which a purely scientific revision of the genera and species is accompanied by a statement of their economic relations.

As the geologist in his search for mineral wealth must be preceded by the topographer, who furnishes him maps on which to indicate the position of his discoveries, so should the economic zoologist base his work upon a knowledge of the geographic distribution of species. Agriculture and biology must be studied from the geographich standpoint before man can hope to avail himself of the means within his grasp for the rapid advancement of these sciences. But geography is only a part of the broader science of physiography. Physiography deals with the earth's exterior in relation to the atmosphere; it attempts to correlate the forms of the land--the mountain ranges, table lands, plains, valleys, and water courses--its geologic structure, soil, elevation above sea level, and slope exposure in relation to sunlight, with the phenomena of climate, including temperature and moisture in their various aspects.

The aim of the Division is to explain the distribution of animals and plants by means of a knowledge of the conditions which govern this distribution, and to formulate the laws which are operative in bringing about the results we see. In other words, cause and effect are studied in the relations of physiography to biology.

May 3, 1889.

Mr. R. Ross Perry,
Fendall Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your communications of April 24 and May 3, relating to Gibson Bros.' bill against the Biological Society, have been referred to Mr. F. A. Lucas, Secretary of the Society.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

(Dictated.)

Washington
April 15, 1889.

Vernon Bailey Esq.
Mydear Sir:

Now that you are no longer working for me personally, I feel at liberty to express my satisfaction with your work.

You have been in the field collecting mammals for me more or less of the time for the last four years and I think it is not too much to say that you are the best mammal collector in the whole world.

You not only understand thoroughly the art of stuffing small mammals, but you also make most excellent skins, with the accompanying skulls prepared in the best manner.

Moreover, you are a very good bird collector, though there are many who can outskin you in that line.

Your general knowledge of mammals, birds, and plants fits you for general field work where a knowledge of the distribution of species is desired. In that latter direction you are without a superior of the present time.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam.

370

May 17, 1889.

My dear Mr. Thomas:

The alcoholics you were kind enough to send me some time ago must have been delayed a long time on the journey, as they reached me only two days before your letter. I have sent you a package in return, and enclose herewith the shipping receipt for the same. The package is addressed to the Mammal Department, in your care.

I was very glad to get the specimens you sent, particularly Hesperomys taylori and Sorex crawfordi; also the American Bats. The specimens I send you in return are likewise all alcoholics, and I trust you will find them of interest. No. 3896, male, Onychomys leucogaster, is from Fort Buford, Dakota, and may be considered a duplicate type, as Buford is only a few miles from the locality where Maximilian obtained his type, and is the identical locality from which [redacted], Audubon and Bachman's "Mus missouriensis" came, [redacted]. Nos. 5592 and 5593, Hesperomys eremicus, male and female, are from the lower Colorado River, a short distance only from the original type locality. I was very much rejoiced to secure a series of specimens from this region, in order to have a point of departure in working up the Hesperomes of the eremicus group. No. 5591, male, is from practically the same locality, and is what Coues calls H. sonoriensis. The Sigmodon, No. 5221, belongs to a subspecies

which will be described shortly by Frank M. Chapman, of New York, and is from his type locality. The specimens of Tamias will probably interest you from their localities.

Should you care to make another exchange I should be glad to do so provided you can send me skins with skulls. I hate alcoholics, and as a rule keep only one or two of a species in spirits in my collection. I have skins with accompanying skulls of all the species mentioned in your letter, and can send you duplicate types of nearly everything I have described, together with fully fifty per cent. of the known species of North American mammals. I am now about to publish descriptions of ten or a dozen new species, one of them an Arctomys.

Unfortunately I have no Californian Otters.

I have recently sent you separates of my mammal papers, and should be much pleased to receive separates of your own publications which have appeared during the past year or so.

Why do you not include Arctomys and Castor in the genus Cricetus? Certainly our notions of what constitutes a genus differ as widely as possible.

Are you not coming over here this summer?

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam.

Mr. Oldfield Thomas,
Curator of Mammals,
British Museum, South Kensington,
London, S.W., England.

May 14, 1889.

Mr. H. Nehrling,
815 North Avenue,
Milwaukee, Wis.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 6th instant reached me yesterday, and the first part of your great work on North American Birds is now before me, for which I am very much obliged. For several years I have looked forward to the appearance of this work with unusual interest, and I am very glad to see that it is published in such good style, and that it contains so much information of value, presented in a pleasant and readable manner. Since you ask for my honest opinion of this book I will give it to you freely. First as to the plates. I deem it unfortunate that the plates which accompany the first part do not illustrate the species treated in this part. For obvious reasons it would be better if the plates could accompany the text which they illustrate. The chromo-lithographs are not up to the standard which the modern excellence of the art exacts. For instance, in plate XIV the red color on the Redstart, and particularly on top of the head of the Ovenbird, is a color never seen in nature. At the same time the figures of birds on these plates are excellent so far as serving purposes of identification. The

drawings on plate XII are inferior, and the chromo-lithograph reproduction is poor. Moreover I cannot see the propriety of grouping six birds characteristic of a northern fauna against a background of tropical verdure. On plate XXXIV I regret to see that your publisher has followed the antiquated and barbarous custom of employing the female sign for both male and female, simply turning it bottom side up in the case of the male. This is an atrocity which you ought not to permit.

The red border about the pages gives the book a cheap look. Without this border the same pages would have a very elegant appearance, as the type is large and distinct and the margin well proportioned.

Now as to the text. The plan of arrangement I like very much, putting the English name first in heavy type, and appending a brief description in small type at the end of each article. This is exactly what ought to be done in all cases where books are written for the public and at the same time are intended to be of scientific accuracy. Your own portion of the text is admirable. I like both your scheme of treatment and the way you express yourself. In fact, what you say about what you yourself have observed is above criticism. At the same time I think you quote too much from the writings of others. This is a common mistake, and one I

have myself made more than once in my earlier writings.

In your remarks on the Wood Thrush, on pages 3 and 4, you speak of this species as a characteristic inhabitant of the coniferous forests of northern Wisconsin, Michigan, New England, and the Alleghany Mountains. You draw a picture of a characteristic forest of the Canadian fauna, with its coniferous trees, its carpet of dense green moss, interspersed with Lycopodium, Gaultheria, and Chiogenes, Andromeda, and then make the statement that the Wood Thrush is "the most frequent denizen of these regions", in which you include also the Chewink. Now the greater part of my life has been spent in the Canadian fauna, and the result of my experience is that you have pictured the very region which the Wood Thrush and the Chewink rarely, if ever, enter. The coniferous forests of the Canadian fauna are the true home of the Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Red-bellied Nuthatch, Winter Wren, and the White-throated Sparrow. You will find a tolerably complete account of the Canadian fauna in the introductory chapter of my work on the Mammals of the Adirondacks. In the matter of song I do not think you give full justice to the Hermit, probably because you are yourself more familiar with the song of the Wood Thrush. I hold the Hermit to be the finest of American songsters.

Such a work as you are now publishing has long been needed in this country -- a work which combines accuracy and reliability of

biography with a minimum of technical description, and illustrated in such a way that all the figures are recognizable. I trust its sale will warrant the very large amount of money expended in its publication.

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(3)

Washington D.C.
May 22/01.

Mr. A.B. Baker.
Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 14th inst. and deed of claims are before me. I am perplexed to know why you sent those claims to me unless it was because you didn't know what to do with them. Most of them are so poor I would not have them in my collection. Each of the claims might be as much as half a dozen eight foot in the hole instead of nines, and all have hard bedds. Not a claim in the lot is made up according to my instructions. They are a dirty, greasy batch, and the hair is loose on most of the claims.

What shall I do with them? I am willing to work a few, and will hold them returns subject to your orders, or return them to Dregs Co.

They were miserably packed too. Small skins should always be muffed in cotton as I have written You over & over again for years.

Skins should be stuffed tightly with cotton, & should be made up to look like fig. 1. in our circular on the preparation of skins, etc. Hard bodies in skins are an abomination, except when such skins are mounted.

It is a singular fact that our ferret skins are those made by professional taxidermists. They are all right for mounting, but all wrong for cabinet specimens.

All skins should be dried flat on a board never in paper cylinders.

Awaiting reply as to the disposition of these skins

I remain, yrs truly

C. Hart Merriam

Sel f. 388.

May 23, 1889.

Dr. Robert Collett,

Christiania, Norway.

Dear Sir:

Your esteemed letter reached me some time ago, and was followed after a considerable interval by the specimens, for which I am very much obliged. In a few days I shall send you a package in return. I am sending you now a few separates of my mammal papers, and should be much pleased to receive any extras of your own publications on mammals that you may happen to have to spare.

I should be glad to make a further exchange with you for any of the Arvicolinæ and Mustelidæ, and representatives of the genera Spermophilus, Tamias, and Arctomys. Of these I very much want skulls as well as skins. In the skins sent the skulls are inside instead of accompanying the skins, so that I cannot get at them without spoiling the skins. In most cases I would like several skulls of a species. In all cases I am particularly anxious to have your identification of the specimens sent.

Unfortunately I am unable to supply you with South American mammals. I am very much in need of these myself. It has become

difficult to secure museum specimens of the Beaver, but I think I can get you one if you will give me a little time. In what shape do you wish it? I can furnish you good specimens, either in alcohol or in the skin form, of most species of North American mammals, including the Spermophiles and Mice.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Ornithologist.

(Dictated.)

P. S. I have a time yer old Beaver which I can send you now if you wish it.

May 27, 1889.

Mr. Theodore D. A. Cockerell,
Secretary Colorado Biological Association,
Westcliffe, Colorado.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of May 3, informing me of my election as a member of the Council of the Colorado Biological Association, reached me a week or so ago, and has just been followed by your communication of the 17th instant, asking for my ballot on certain propositions submitted in writing.

In regard to recorders and referees, I vote in the affirmative for a, c, d, and e; in the negative for b, because I do not consider the person named as competent to identify birds' eggs, and I would suggest as a substitute the name of Captain Charles E. Bendire, Curator of Oölogy, U. S. National Museum. Upon the other questions submitted I do not care to vote either way.

In looking over your reports, of which I have Nos. 2 to 13, inclusive (I should be glad to receive No. 1), I am impelled to make certain suggestions.

1. That these reports, if worth anything at all, are worth preserving for permanent file or binding; consequently that they ought to be in uniform size as to type-bed and margin. The 13th

report is a miserable little leaflet, which is almost certain to become lost.

2. That they should bear the date of publication, which at present exists on but five of the thirteen. The others have not so much as the year to give a clue as to the dates of their publication.

3. That the notes containing information on the occurrence or migrations of species should be accompanied by the date and locality. Most statements of this kind are worthless for lack of this information. In one place I notice a record of the appearance of the Chipmunk March 10; the year is left out, and no mention is made of the locality, altitude, or name of species. It is hardly necessary to state that records of this kind are utterly worthless.

I am very glad to see that your membership has increased so largely, and that your Association is so energetic.

Wishing you success, I remain,

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

(Dictated.)

May 29, 1889.

Dr. C. J. Forsyth Major,

Porto Santo Stefano,

Toscana, Italy.

Dear Sir:

In my work upon a monographic revision of the Arvicolinae I have had occasion to consult your very valuable paper entitled VERTEBRATI ITALIANI NUOVI O POCO NOTI, published in Volume III of the Atti della Societa Toscana, in 1877. In it I find the best illustration of the teeth of members of the genus Arvicola that I have ever seen. I should be very much pleased if you could spare me a separate copy of this paper in order that I may have it for convenient reference. I take pleasure in sending you by this post a few of my own publications relating to mammals.

I am particularly interested in the Arvicola glareolus from Italy, and am exceedingly anxious to examine a specimen of it. Would you be willing to exchange a specimen for some of our North American mammals?

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Ornithologist.

(Dictated.)

Washington
May 31/79.

Mr. A. B. Baker

Sydney Lin:

Have been holding
two enclosed letters
waiting to hear from
you in order to know
where to address you.

On looking over the
shells again carefully I have
decided to keep the following;
four as they are:

3 Strigata	1 Carinifera. 13 limpets
2 Neptunea	1 Sipho decemcostatus
2 Fulgur rubus	1 Neptunea cumingi
2 Latirus nigrifes	1 Ochetodon
1 Cymatium	

Will send money to A. W. Swinton as directed

Yours
C. Hart Merriam

Washington, D.C.
June 3, 1889.

My dear Mother:

Without knowing anything about it I assume that you spent Sunday (yesterday) in Salt Lake City, and that you will be leaving shortly for Denver by way of the Narrow Gauge road which passes through Black Canon and the Royal Gorge of the Arkansas - a trip of unsurpassing interest. The experience of spending a day and a night on a narrow gauge sleeper is in itself a novelty. It is also a sort of dull horror affair, after which a full-sized Pullman seems like a palace. You are fortunate in having friends waiting

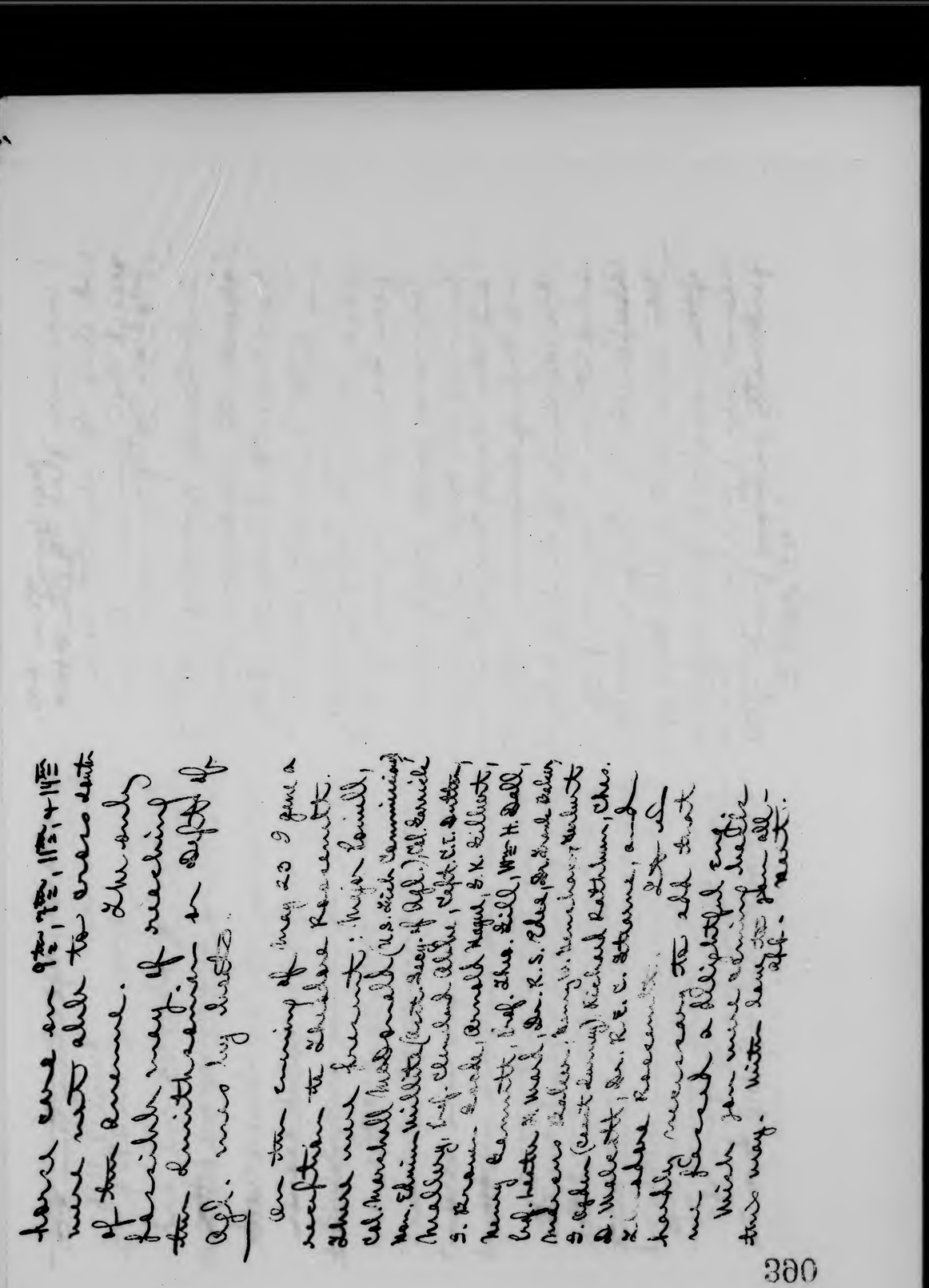
of strangers for housekeeping comforts.

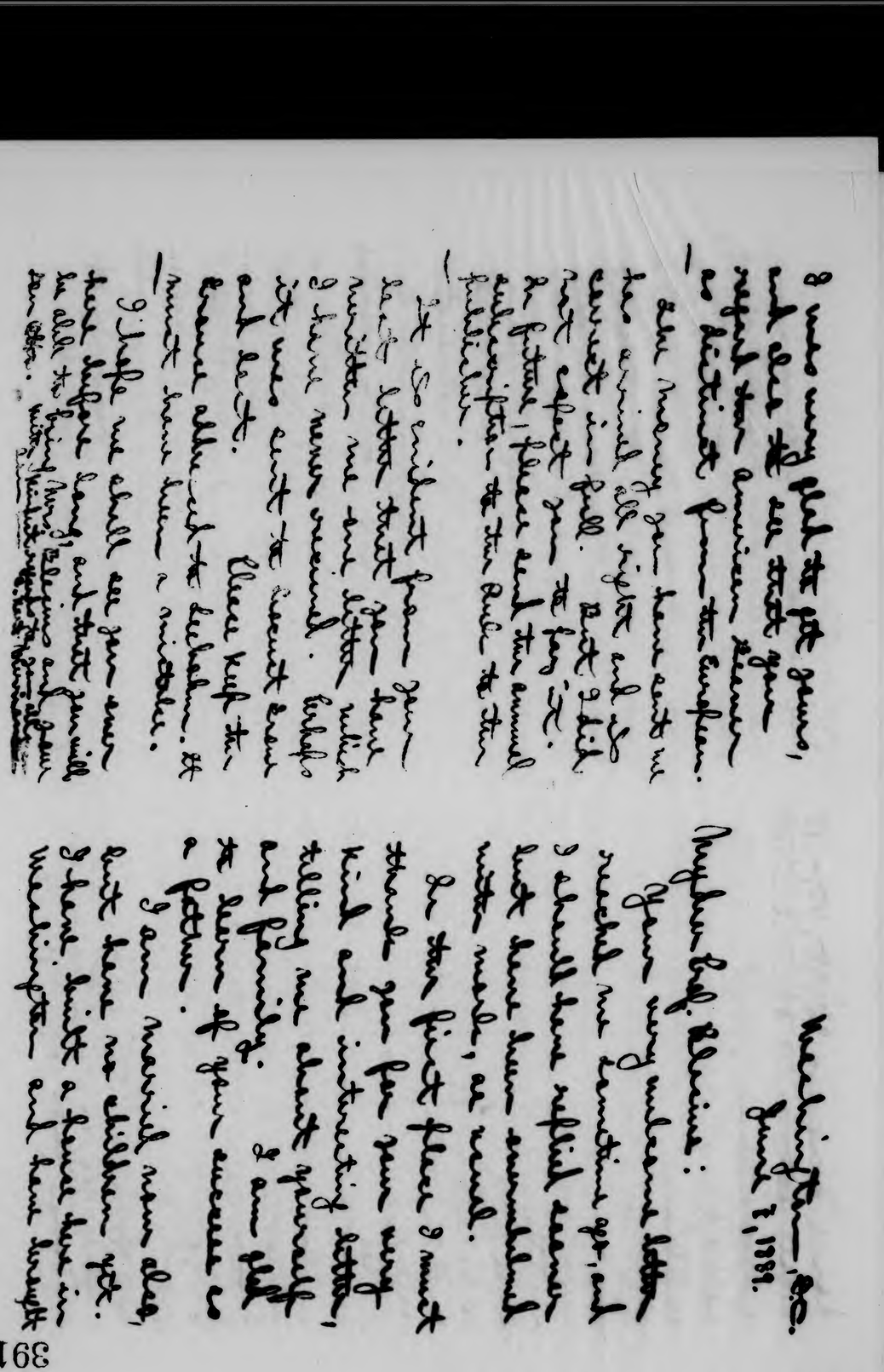
Your letter of the 27th of May has just reached me and I am delighted to know that Florence is so much better. Her kind letter for the Ark came all right & so excellent. Will write about details as soon as she gets home.

Of course you know all about the Johnstown flood with drowned several thousand persons.

We have had a flood here, too. Yesterday the water was so deep on Pennsylvania Avenue that I came from the dining hotels and homes by boats backed up into their front doors!

The water was so deep that the





Any collection of American
mammals has usually about
6000 specimens.

At best the Communists have
given us [illegible] study and
not the distribution of our
mammals and birds, and has
interested very few [illegible]
for the remaining [illegible] 15,000 [illegible]
& shows many [illegible] students
travelling in different parts of
the world, and help the accomplish
a work had before visitors.
Our specimens collected in these
ways go into the National Museum
and remain under very strange
regard & shall begin a publication
on the Communist Museum, which
will be sent you regularly. We
hope sometime to exchange
duck for a duck-bill platypus.

Washington
June 15/27.

Mydear Grinnell:

Your letter of the
10th enclosing copy of some
letters received from
Dr. Hagen, I was followed
by two days ago, & was followed
by the loss of skins.

On unpacking them here
in Washington I was [illegible]
shocked to find the
skins [illegible] & [illegible]
& [illegible] on account of
dampness. [illegible]
[illegible] skins [illegible]
[illegible] skins [illegible]
[illegible] skins

Retake of Preceding Frame

3) a Christmas visit, I have not seen her since the outbreak of war. Is there any kind of restriction in force at present which would make it impossible for me to travel to Germany? Would it be necessary for me to obtain a permit from the German authorities?

2) No, there is no restriction in force at present. You merely require a passport.

1) Is it necessary for me to obtain a permit from the German authorities before I can travel to Germany?

Original Defective

Washington
June 18/39.

Mr. Khuhlman, Chief,
American Section,
Passport Office,
Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am a native born citizen of the United States and desire to return to Germany for a visit. I have been informed that I must obtain a permit from the German authorities before I can travel to Germany. Is this correct?

Very truly yours,

July 6, 1889.

My dear Col. Lee:

Your letter of ten 3d inst. actually enclosing passes for Mrs. Merriam from Kansas City to Flagstaff + return fairly takes my breath away. I scarcely dared hope there was any chance at all — and there was none except through you.

Mrs. Merriam is overjoyed, and joins me in the hope that we may be able at sometime, in some feeble way, to express our gratitude to you.

Of course we shall stop at Lafeka to see you and the Lee collection — of which we have heard so much.

I will let you know when to expect us — probably about the 20th.

I shall not attempt to thank you, for — that would be impossible, but you know we appreciate your kindness.

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

Col. H. S. Lee
Lafeka, Kansas.

July 18, 9

Mrs. W. H. White
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Col. H. S. Lees of Zefeka writes me that I am indebted to you for two tons received for Mrs. Merriam between Kansas City and Flagstaff — to which latter point I am taking a small party of Naturalists. It is hardly necessary to say that I am greatly indebted for your kindness, and I trust that our trip may be the means of leading others to visit the very interesting region about San Francisco Mts. & the Grand Cañon.

I take the liberty to send you a few publications which may contain something of interest to Mrs. Merriam.

Yours truly
C. Hart Merriam.

Oct. 12, 9

Dr Audley Buller
Apartado 89,
Guadalajara Mexico.

Dear Sir:

I have first returned from Arizona and find your letter of Sept. 2d, and also the loss of skins sent. The skins of chipmunks (Tamias) are not up to our standard of excellence, but they show that with a little practice you will be able to make good skins. Please do not forget that all skins should be put away to dry belly down on a flat surface, & that great care should be taken with the feet & head. In preparing the skulls; it is not necessary to save the cervical vertebrae, & it is easier to remove the brains when they are out of the way. As a rule it is better to preserve both in spirits than to skin them. A slit should be made in the belly to admit the alcohol, & care should be taken not to crowd too many in one bottle

after soaking in alcohol for 10 days or 2 weeks the hats may be removed safely, wrapped in cotton or cloth, packed in a tin box with a tight cover, & sent by mail. We find old baking powder boxes very convenient for mailing alcoholics.

—

I enclose $2.00 in payt. for the skins sent (4 bats & 4 chipmunks).

In future I will give you 25 cts each for good skins with skulls of mice & chipmunks & will take 6 of each species at that price. Your bats in spirit I will pay the same price for 4 of each species provided they are read. in good condition, but if the hair is loose, only 10 cents.

For larger squirrels & gophers I will pay more in proportion. But please have the quality of the specimens as high as possible, & have the skins thoroughly dry before sending.

Very respectfully
C. Hart Merriam—

Oct. 12, 9

Editor of Nature.

Dear Sir:

The enclosed note is self explanatory. If you will kindly send me two copies of Nature containing it I shall be very much obliged—

Respectfully
C. Hart Merriam—

WHO DISCOVERED THE TEETH IN ORNITHORHYNCHUS ?

On returning from central Arizona, where I have been engaged in biological explorations, I find upon my desk an important paper entitled"On the Dentition of Ornithorhynchus", by my friend Oldfield Thomas Esq., Curator of Mammals in the British Museum.--(see Proc. Royal Soc.Vol.46,1889,126-131,pl.2.)

The opening sentence of this paper is as follows:"At the meeting of the 9th of February,1888,Mr. F.E. Poulton communicated to this Society the first discovery of the presence of teeth in Ornithorhynchus, a discovery which naturally awakened extreme interest throughout the scientific world." A few lines further on Mr. Thomas continues: "The grand fact of the presence of teeth in Monotremes, and their mammalian nature, are discoveries on which Mr. Poulton may well be congratulated".

From the above I infer that considerable stir has been made by the assumed new 'discovery' that the young Ornithorhynchus has teeth.

If my British colleagues will turn to the masterly work of their illustrious countryman, Sir Everard Home, they will find in the second volume of his"Lectures on Comparative Anatomy"(published in 1814) no less than three beautifully engraved plates, containing eight figures, of the skull and mouth parts of Ornithorhynchus.

Four of these figures show the teeth--two on each side of each jaw. The explanation accompanying Fig.I,Tab.LIX is as follows:"A view of the upper jaw and palate, to show that there are two grinding teeth on each side". Fig. 2 is "a similar view of the under jaw".

Washington, D. C. October 12, 1889. C. Hart Merriam,M.D.

Retake of Preceding Frame

WHO DISCOVERED THE TEETH IN ORNITHORHYNCHUS ?

On returning from central Arizona, where I have been engaged in biological explorations, I find upon my desk an important paper entitled "On the Dentition of Ornithorhynchus", by my friend Oldfield Thomas Esq., Curator of Mammals in the British Museum.--(see Proc. Royal Soc. Vol. 46, 1889, 126-131, pl. 2.)

The opening sentence of this paper is as follows: "At the meeting of the 9th of February, 1888, Mr. R.B. Poulton communicated to this Society the first discovery of the presence of teeth in Ornithorhynchus, a discovery which naturally awakened extreme interest throughout the scientific world." A few lines further on Mr. Thomas continues: "The grand fact of the presence of teeth in Monotremes, and their mammalian nature, are discoveries on which Mr. Poulton may well be congratulated".

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Washington, D. C. October 12, 1889. C. Hart Merriam, M.D.

WHO DISCOVERED THE TEETH IN ORNITHORHYNCHUS ?

In Nature for November 14, Profs. Flower and Latter criticise my note which appeared the week previous (Nature, Nov. 7, p.11) concerning the discovery of teeth in the young Ornithorhynchus. They promptly dismiss my claim that Sir Everard Home discovered the teeth of the young Ornithorhynchus by stating that the structures described and figured by Sir Everard are the well known cornules of the adult animal.

If they will take the trouble to turn to the plate cited by me, namely, plate LIX of the second volume of Home's Lectures, 1814. and will read the accompanying explanation, they will see that Home was familiar with the teeth of both the young and the old animal.

For the benefit of those who may not have access to Home's Lectures I here reproduce outline tracings of two of his figures. Plate LIX, fig. 2 shows the teeth of the young Ornithoryhncus-- the "first set", as Home says, "to shew that there are two grinding teeth on each side". The next figure is a similar tracing from the succeeding plate in Home's Lectures (pl. LX) which represents, to again use Home's own words, "the under jaw of the full grown Ornithorhynchus paradoxus, to shew that there is only one grinder on each side".

Both of these figures are natural size.

In the face of these facts, further comment seems unnecessary.

I admit, of course, that Home did not discover the chemical composition of the teeth of the young animal--this was Poulton's discovery.

E. Hart Merriam.

Washington, D.C.
Dec. 1, 1899.

Jan. 21, 1890.

Dear Doctor Dolcen:

Am very glad to hear from you again and to know that you are going on with your work on the Lepidoptera. For some time I've been intending to write & beg you to publish your notes on North American Rhopa, however brief or fragmentary, so that we can recognize your species. Now that the figures are made, a very small amount of text would be sufficient. You must know that we have been holding back for several years in order to find you the opportunity to publish your species first. The time has now come when, in connection with

our faunal work, it is absolutely necessary to say something about the Sonora. So I trust you will be able to publish at once brief diagnoses of your new species from North America.

I will go over my collection as soon as possible & search for young Bleina & Lepus and let you know the results. I have some embryos of both genera but fear they are too young.

About the end of October I sent you copies of some of my recent publications but fear they did not reach you as they were sent to your old address. Shall duplicate them now.

With kindest regards
Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

Jan. 21, 1890.

Dear Mr. Allen:

This morning I sent you by express a package containing 113 specimens of Zamias of the quadrimittatus group — all skins. By this mail I send four more which would not go into the other package without crowding. This makes 117 skins in all and exhausts my personal collection excepting a few alcoholics which you can have if you wish.

I have not sent Zamias macrorhabdotus or Z. dorsalis, but will if you want them. The same is true of your new form from Mexico.

In addition to my own collection, and the National Museum collection, there are a number of specimens belonging

* on department of Agriculture which you ought to see. Some of them are very important. It is not in my power to send you these now, but I think I might obtain permission to do so provided you will will agree to return them, named, within say two months.

The present policy of the department of Agriculture is to work up and publish its own material, but I think I can secure an exceptional ruling in this case. If you get these specimens I must ask you to determine the Jamaican Mt. region forms within a month, as my paper on that region is nearly ready for the press.

Am very much pleased with your very important paper on the Mesamilian Types of South American Birds' and hope you will work up all of Mesamilian's Birds + Mammals from both North + South America. Very truly yours

C. Hart Merriam.

Mr. Fuller — Mr. Miller — Mr. Ridgway — Mr. Dall — Mr. Stejneger — Mr. Allen — Mr. Chapman — Mr. Bangs — Mr. Brewster — Mr. Townsend

in treatment, due to inefficiency of material or other causes.

Personally, I try to make my descriptions of new forms absolutely diagnostic, and I confess to considerable chagrin in seeing them classed with those of Merriams which as a rule are not sufficiently good to admit of determining true subspecies — let alone subspecies to which they belong.

We are glad to know that you are settled in your new home and hope it will prove as pleasant and convenient as the one you left.

Mrs. Merriam joins me in kind regards to you both, and in the hope that you will soon recover from the effects of moving and be all the better for the change.

Mrs. M. is as well as could be expected.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

Washington
Apr. 29/90.

404

Dear Mr. Allen:

When I wrote you a few days ago I was suffering from a severe pain in the left side of my abdomen. I went home & went to bed & have been there ever since until this morning. For several days I feared my case was ap, but fortunately it turned out to be nothing more serious than a rupture of some of the fibres of the deep abdominal muscles, with attendant inflammation involving a small portion of peritoneum. Hope to be all right again in a few days. This will explain the delay in sending measurements and skulls. The former go to you by this mail. The Nish Bay measurements you already have. I have no measurements of the Apache Co. specimens, & none from Kalama.

You will have to supply the S. F. nos. from the skins. We furnish the original nos. only you will find on the back of each label, at the tied end. We have not yet been able to spare the time to copy the S. F. nos. in our original catalogues, nor to write labels for the skulls, hence the present trouble. Will try to send skull tomorrow.

Bailey is now in Central Wyoming & will probably reach Badger next week. He has not sent in any Lemmies yet, nor have we rec'd any from any source. Will send you all that arrive in time.

Please find me your name for the San Francisco Mtg. Lemmies.

In regard to binomials versus trinomials for the chipmunks, I concede of course that there are several good species, and several subspecies whose affinities must be doubtful. At the same time there are a number whose interrelations must be clearly subspecific, and I do not see the logic in treating these as species because you are uncertain of the relationship of some of the others. Is this not contrary to the ruling of the A.O.U. & contrary to the custom of all who use trinomials?

I want to be able to stand up for every one of your new forms and to believe in your conclusions, particularly in view of the desirability of presenting a 'solid front' to our friends across the water who cannot be expected to discriminate matters of principle from slight errors

Oct. 28, 1890.

M. Godefroy Lunel,
Directeur du Musée d'Histoire Naturelle,
Geneva, Switzerland.

Dear Sir:

On returning from the mountains of Idaho, where I have been conducting Biological explorations during the past season, my assistant, Mr. E. S. Palmer, calls my attention to a communication received from you during my absence, requesting the immediate return of some specimens of Mexican Mammals, collected by Mr. de Saussure, which your museum had the courtesy to loan me some time ago.

I owe you an apology for keeping these specimens so long, and my only excuse is prolonged absence from Washington. As you may be aware, I have charge of a Biological Survey of our western coasts and territories, and during the past two years much of my time has been spent in exploring remote parts of this for ments, in California, Oregon, Washington,

Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and Idaho. In the intervals between these annual explorations I have been overwhelmed with work, preparing my reports for publication, and attending to the urgent duties connected with my official position. For these reasons I have been prevented from making the critical comparisons necessary for the determination of Mr. Lawrence's types. I trust therefore that you and the other officers of your Museum will pardon me for retaining so long the specimens in question.

I shall forward these specimens at once and return them by an early steamer.

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

December 11,1890.

Dr. George H. Horn,
Corresponding Secretary,
Academy of Natural Sciences,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Dear Sir:

Your communication of the 9th instant, informing me of my election to corresponding membership in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, has just reached me.

I accept this membership with a due sense of the honor conferred and shall esteem it a privilege to promote the interests of the Academy in every way within my power.

In a few days I shall take the liberty to send to the Library of the Academy as many of my scientific papers as remain undistributed. I have the honor to remain,

Very respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

January 24,1891

Prof. G. Brown Goode,
Director U. S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Goode:

At the request of my father I transmit herewith the data relating to the interlocked Elk antlers deposited by him in the Museum sometime since.

Respectfully,

(Dictated.)

INTERLOCKED ANTLERS OF THE ELK OR WAPITI (CERVUS CANADENSIS)

From Carroll, Montana.

Deposited by Hon. Clinton L. Merriam, of Locust Grove, New York.

These interlocked Elk antlers were found by a half breed named Red Eagle while hunting Buffalo near the Little Rocky Mountains north of Carroll, Montana, in February, 1882. Red Eagle immediately returned to Carroll and told Mr. J. W. Shultz of his discovery. Mr. Shultz made a 'bob sled', hitched a cayuse to it, and drove to the place. He says: "The antlers were lying in a broad ravine which runs from the Missouri to the mountains. The backbones of the animals were still attached to the skulls, but the wolves had torn the hides, and torn off the leg bones and some of the ribs. The ground about the place was tramped and trodden down, as if the animals had become interlocked and finally had died of starvation and exhaustion."

The following letters relating to these antlers were received by Mr. Merriam.

[From Hon. Judge John Dean Caton, Chicago, Illinois (Owner of the Ottawa, Illinois, Elk Park, and of one of the largest collections of antlers in America).]

Chicago, Illinois, October 22, 1883.

Dear Sir:

You have laid me under great obligations by your favor of the 9th instant telling me of the interlocked Elk antlers. I have never seen interlocked Elk antlers though I have heard it stated that they have been found, but I cannot recall by whom, and I am not sure that it was from one

who had seen them or but a rumor. It is certain that they are very rare.....

Yours very truly,
J. D. Caton.

[From the late Professor Spencer F. Baird, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.]

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
August 20,1883.

Dear Mr. Merriam.

I do not think that I ever saw interlocked Elk antlers, and congratulate you upon getting them. Do you not think it would be better for you to send them to the Smithsonian Institution ?

Yours truly,
S. F. Baird.

[From the late General Delos B. Sacket, Inspector General, U. S. Army.]

Cape Vincent, New York,
August 21,1883.

My dear Merriam.

Yours of the 17th instant is at hand. I have not seen nor have I heard of interlocked Elk antlers. You should be a happy man to have such antlers in your possession. They should be handsomely mounted and will be worth going a long distance to see. I have seen a number of interlocked Deer antlers but those of the Elk I have not seen. I have seen, and they are now in the Museum at Ann Arbor, Michigan, a pair of huge antlers, one side Elk and the other side Moose. They are a great wonder and I would have given a great deal for them.

Yours very truly,
D. S. Sacket.

Feb. 14, 1911.

Mr. C. O. Davis
Sec. Loc. Gen. Laundry Council
National Union.

Dear Sir:

I hand you herewith my check for $19.85 in payt. of the following:

assessment	#92 (Dec. 1910)	1.75	
"	93-94 (Jan.-Feb. 1911)	2.60	
quarterly dues to March 31, 1911		1.00	
		$5.35	6.35

Also:

assessments	(March to Sept. inclusive) nos. 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102 =	12.60
quarterly dues to June 30, 1911		1.00
		$13.60

Please send receipt. I shall be out of town during June summer —

Resp.

A. Nast Morrison —

Washington, D.C.
Feb. 25, 1891.

Dear Mr. Allen:

Your letter of the 19th inst came several days ago and I am very much obliged for the information you give me about your paper on the Geog. Dist. of Mammals in North America. I have delayed replying in order to see Merriam, but am no better off than before I saw him for he doesn't remember the first thing about your argument in favor of reinstating the 'Central Province' — so I am utterly at a loss to comprehend your position. In fact, I am not

4

genera, species &c in the various groups studied.

I hope you will publish without regard to my results, though I should be sorry to see You take a retrograde step in support of a 'lost cause'.

The northern and southern ends of the several arms of the Lemuran gave me much trouble, as did the whole of the Californian arm; and I never understood them really until this year.

With kindest regards,
Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam.

416.

November 20

Mr. Outram Bangs,

240 Beacon Street,

Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Bangs:

Your letter of the 18th inst. has just come to hand.

In view of the fact that I have been hard at work in this field for more than fifteen years, it seems hardly worth while to waste time in discussing priority in the field, or priority of claim. Neither did it ever occur to me that you had intended to restrict yourself to eastern North America, inasmuch as you have been purchasing specimens from various points in the west, from southern California to British Columbia. However, all this has no bearing on the case. I should not on any account discourage you from going ahead with your contemplated book; on the contrary, I hope you will bring it out exactly as you had planned, and wish you every success. The book on the mammals of eastern North America on which I am engaged will be a small and inexpensive volume, complete in itself. It is intended chiefly for popular use and amateurs, and will be in no sense a technical treatise. I do not contemplate using colored plates, except possibly a single one for a frontispiece. This book, which I hope to publish in the spring, will not only in no way in-

O. B. 2

terfere with your more elaborate volume, but by furnishing some ready means of identifying our common mammals will make this field available for a larger number of persons, and thereby pave the way for, and increase the sale of your more elaborate book.

I shall be glad to examine the Neotoma from Indian Territory when it arrives, and let you know the result. Thanks for your offer of the loan of material.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

November 28

Professor Henry F. Osborn,

Columbia College,

New York.

My dear Osborn:

In reply to your letter of the 25th inst., just received, I am sending you a complete set of the base maps used by us in platting geographic distribution. The small maps reduce nicely by photo process to octavo page or even half page.

For purposes of reference we constantly use the Land Office maps (published by the Department of the Interior), the Post Route maps (published by the Post Office Department), the maps published by the Engineer Department of the Army, and those of the Geological Survey. We have a special case for the contour sheets of the Geological Survey, which we find the most important of all for detailed work, so far as the surveyed areas are concerned.

Perhaps I can sufficiently answer your question about the use of material by stating that when Allen was at work on the Chipmunks I sent him all the specimens of Tamias in my personal collection and in the Department collection. When he was at work on his revision of the Harvest Mice I sent him all of the specimens under my

C.H.M.-2

control belonging to this group, although he did not ask for them. When Bangs asked for Weasel material I sent him all of my own specimens of eastern weasels, and all those in the Department collection, and also persuaded the authorities of the National Museum to let him have their specimens. You may better appreciate what this means when I tell you that I had been collecting weasels for the past twelve years with the special object of monographing this group, and that I had a great quantity of manuscript already typewritten before Bangs began his work. I have also given Gerrit Miller free access to the collections of American bats under my charge, which I have made a specialty of collecting for many years, and concerning which I have a multitude of manuscript notes and measurements. I have allowed him to describe new species, and have enabled him to prepare a revision of the family Vespertilionidæ. I have also given him every facility and assistance in the preparation of his recent admirable paper entitled 'Genera and Subgenera of Voles and Lemmings.' A large percentage of the illustrations used in this paper were made several years ago for my personal use, but all were freely turned over to him. More recently I have placed two other large groups at his disposal, and believe that he will prepare monographic revisions of them which will be a credit to himself, and a great convenience to all working mammalogists. I do not remember to have ever declined to loan specimens to any reputable naturalist who is competed to do good work. For as a general proposition I thoroughly believe in placing

material where it will do the most good.

On the other hand I recognize that Museums are public trusts, and that they are in duty bound to impose certain restrictions for the safe keeping and permanent preservation of their treasures. I recognize also certain personal rights in the way of first claims on material. For instance, if one of my men is at work on a report on the birds collected by him in Mexico I should not consider it just to give others access to his specimens until his report was published. Still, as a matter of fact, I have granted Ridgeway unrestricted use of all our thousands of Mexican bird skins for his Synopsis of the Birds of North America, notwithstanding the fact that his work is sure to appear before Nelson's Birds of Mexico.

Again, I should not consider it fair to myself, or that it would best serve the interests of science to send to some other worker material on which I am personally at work. This might apply to a particular group (as Shrews or Kangaroo Rats), or to a particular area (as Mexico or Oregon).

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

December 5, 1896.

Hon. Gardiner G. Hubbard,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In reply to your inquiry as to the actual authorship of the publications of the Biological Survey (formerly Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy), of which I have charge, I beg to submit the following statement:

The publications of the Division consist of Annual Reports, articles in the 'Yearbook', and two regular series of documents entitled respectively Bulletins and North American Fauna.

The Annual Reports, in addition to the perfunctory account of the work of the year, comprise special articles by Vernon Bailey, Walter B. Barrows, F. E. L. Beal, A. K. Fisher, and C. Hart Merriam all of which are printed under the names of their authors.

The Yearbook was first published in 1895. The articles thus far contributed to it by this Division are seven in number and bear the following titles:

1. The Geographic Distribution of Animals and Plants in North America. By C. H. Merriam
2. Hawks and Owls as Rolated to the Farmer. By A. K. Fisher.
3. The Crowblackbirds and their Food. By F. E. L. Beal.
4. Four Common Birds of the Farm and Garden. By S. D. Judd.
5. The Meadowlark and Baltimore Oriole. By F. E. L. Beal.
6. Bounties and Bounty Laws of the United States. By T. S. Palmer.
7. Food of the Blue Jay. By F. E. L. Beal.

The Bulletins of the Division consist, with a single exception, of special reports on the economic relations of Birds and Mammals

G. G. H.--2.

prepared by, and published under the names of, my assistants. The exception is Bulletin 2 on the Bird Migration, by Prof. W. W. Cooke. Following are the titles of the 8 Bulletins thus far published:

1. The English Sparrow in America. By Walter B. Barrows.
2. Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley. By W. W. Cooke.
3. The Hawks and Owls of the United States in their relation to Agriculture. By A. K. Fisher.
4. The Ground Squirrels or Spermophiles of the Mississippi Valley. By Vernon Bailey.
5. The Pocket Gophers of the United States. By Vernon Bailey.
6. The Common Crow of the United States. By Walter B. Barrows and E. A. Schwarz.
7. The Food of Woodpeckers. By F. E. L. Beal.
   The Tongues of Woodpeckers. By F. A. Lucas.
8. The Jack Rabbits of the United States. By T. S. Palmer.

The publication entitled North American Fauna comprises technical papers on the Natural History of our country. Ten numbers, containing 45 articles, have been published. Of these 45 articles, 3 were written by Dr. Leonhard Stejneger; 2 by Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.; 1 each by Prof. C. V. Riley, Prof. S. W. Williston, Mr. P. H. Uhler, Prof. Lawrence Bruner, Prof. C. H. Gilbert, Dr. R. E. C. Stearns, Dr. T. S. Palmer, and Dr. A. K. Fisher, and 32 by myself. Each is published under the name of its author.

A complete set of the publications of the Division is sent you herewith.

I am not aware that I have ever published, either in the scientific publications of the Division or in papers published outside of the Division, a single line written by anyone else, for which full credit is not given.

So far as my relations with my assistants go, I have not only never published under my name anything written by them, but have always encouraged them to publish independently and have furnished them hundreds of pages of my own notes and manuscripts, and numerous

illustrations, which have been published by them under their own names--they giving me credit for the data so used. As a matter of fact during the past twelve years I have spent vastly more time over the manuscripts of my assistants than in the preparation of my own papers.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

has told the Regents that I am a tyrant, that my subordinates detest me, that I do not allow my assistants to publish even their own names if I can prevent it, and that I habitually publish over my name matter prepared by my assistants! This is interesting in view of the facts.

Of the 45 articles those for published in North American Fauna, 13 were contributed by persons other than myself and bear their names; 32 were written by me and so appear. As you probably know, I have no assistant competent to write on the subjects covered by my articles.

Of the 8 Bulletins those for published by the Division, all were written by assistants and without exception appear under their names.

Of the 7 articles those for contributed to the daft 'Yearbook', one was written by me and so is stated; the 6 others were written by my assistants and appear under their names.

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

By the way, I trust you will consent to deliver the principal address at the Lord Memorial Meeting on February 13.

Lieutenant Lemuel Wilson will speak of Lord as a historian & citizen.

SECOND MEETING OF THE A. O. U. COMMITTEE
ON CLASSIFICATION AND NOMENCLATURE OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

Held in the Bird Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D. C., December 10, 1896.

The meeting was called at 10 A. M. Present: Dr. Elliott Coues, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Mr. Robert Ridgway.

On motion of Dr. Merriam, Dr. Coues was made Chairman of the Committee (the President, Mr. Brewster, being absent). Mr. Ridgway was appointed Secretary. The minutes of the Cambridge meeting were read.

Dr. Merriam moved that the action taken at the Cambridge meeting on the name Dryobates montanus be reconsidered. Carried.

Dr. Merriam read Canon 38 of the A. O. U. Code, which provides that: "A specific or subspecific name is to be changed when it has been applied to some other species of the same genus, or used previously in combination with the same generic name", and stated that this Canon had been violated by the action of the Committee in the case of Dryobates montanus Anthony. Canon 38 distinctly provides for two classes of cases: (1) in which a name must be changed when it has been applied to some other species of the same genus; (2) when it has been used previously in combination with the same generic name. The case in point falls under the first heading, the name Dryobates montanus Anthony being preoccupied by Picus montanus Brehm, which is

conceded to belong to the same genus.

In view of these facts Dr. Merriam moved that the name Dryobates montanus, being preoccupied, cannot be used for an American bird Unanimously carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the case of Dryobates pubescens nelsoni be reconsidered. Carried.

Dr. Merriam stated that Picus pubescens (Linnaeus) was based on Catesby and Brisson, and called attention to the fact that Brisson's bird came from Virginia or Carolina, and Catesby's from Carolina or Florida; and consequently that the name pubescens must be fixed on the southern bird and cannot be transferred to the boreal form of the species, as was done by Swainson.

In view of these facts Dr. Merriam moved that the eastern forms of Dryobates pubescens stand as follows:

Dryobates pubescens (Linn.). Type from South Carolina or Florida.
( )
Dryobates pubescens medianus (Sw.) Type from New Jersey.
Dryobates pubescens nelsoni Oberholser. Type from Alaska.

Unanimously carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the generic name Oreospiza be adopted as a full genus for the bird commonly known as Fringilla chlorura Audubon, and type of Pipilo Vieillot, 1816. Unanimously carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the genus Arremonops be admitted for the American birds previously referred to the genus Embernagra, the type being Embernagra rufivirgata Lawrence (see Ridgway, Man. N. Am. Birds, second Ed., p. 505, 1896). Unanimously carried.

The question of Fulmarus glacialis columba was deferred.

The question of Procyto cuniculoria floridana was deferred.

On motion of Dr. Merriam the case of Cardinalis floridanus was reconsidered.

Dr. Merriam moved that Cardinalis cardinalis floridanus Ridgway be accepted as a valid subspecies. Unanimously carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that Agelaius phoeniceus floridanus Maynard be admitted. Unanimously carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that Ammodramus maritimus macgillivrayi be admitted as the breeding bird of Louisiana. Carried.

.....

The Committee adjourned at noon for lunch, and reconvened at 1 P. M.

The case of Melanerpes formicivorus aculeatus was taken up, and specimens were examined from various points in the southwestern United States, Mexico, and Guatemala. Swainson's type of Melanerpes formicivorus came from Temascaltepec, on the south slope of the volcano of Toluca, in the state of Mexico. Specimens collected by Nelson at several points near the type locality proved to be the black-breasted form, recently recognized by Ridgway as M. f. aculeatus Mearns [Ridgway, Man. Birds, 2nd Ed. p 597, 1896], which form ranges over the whole tableland region of Mexico, and thence northward to western Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

In view of these facts Dr. Merriam moved that the bird recognized by Ridgway as Melanerpes f. aculeatus stand as M. formicivorus, and

that the bird from Chiapas and Guatemala southward to Costa Rica, be recognized as M. formicivorus striatipectus Ridgway.

Unanimously carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Zamelodia be substituted for Habia, on the ground that Habia Rchb. is preoccupied by Blyth in Cuvier's Animal Kingdom p---, 1849. Carried.

Dr. Coues stated that the bird standing in the Check List under the name Junco hyemalis shufeldti was described by him in the 2nd ed. of his Key (1884) under the name Junco hyemalis connectens.

Dr. Merriam moved that the name Junco hyemalis shufeldti Coles be replaced by Junco h. connectens Coues, by which it is antedated. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Ammodramus sanctorum Coues, from San Benito Island, Lower California, be admitted as a full species. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that Dendroica aestiva rubiginosa (Pallas), from Kadiak Island, Alaska, be recognized as a valid subspecies [See Oberholser, Auk, Jan. 1897]. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Casarca casarca (Linn.) and Anser albalis (Lath.) Salvad. be admitted as extralimital species of accidental occurrence in Greenland [Auk, 13, 243-244, July, 1896]. Carried.

Dr. Coues moved that the case of Rallus virginianus occidentalis

Stone be submitted to a Subcommittee consisting of Dr. Merriam and Mr. Ridgway. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that the name Tringa alpina pacifica of the Check List be not changed, the name Tringa americana being preoccupied by Pelidna americana Brehm. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the name Helminthophila ruficapilla (Wilson) be changed to Helminthophila rubricapilla (Wilson) [See Faxon, Auk, vol. 13, 263-264, July, 1896]. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that the name Puffinus major (Faber, 1822) be changed to Puffinus gravis (O'Reily, 1818). [See Cat. Birds Brit. Mus., XXV, 373, 1896]. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the case of Puffinus borealis versus P. kuhli be deferred.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Puffinus opisthomelas Coues stand instead of Puffinus gavia [See Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. XXV, 380, 1896]. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Puffinus anduboni be not changed. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the case of Puffinus stricklandi be deferred. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Aythya Boie be not changed to Nyroca. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the case of Aythya marila versus Aythya

marila nearctica be deferred. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the generic names Clangula and Glaucionetta be allowed to remain as they now stand in our Check List. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that the case of Somateria mollissima versus Somateria mollissima borealis be deferred. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Erismatura jamaicensis be adopted instead of Erismatura rubida [Salvadori, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. XXVII, 440, 1896]. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Mergus albellus be included in the Check List of North American Birds as an accidental straggler [See Cat. Birds British Mus. XXVII, 408, 1896]. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that the case of Oidemia carbo be deferred. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that Aythia be not changed back to Fuligula. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that the case of Agelaius meloda circumdatus be deferred. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Tringa ptilocnemis and Tringa couesi be not changed. Carried.

Dr. Coues moved that the subgenus Squatarola be raised to full generic rank, and that the species stand as Squatarola squatarola (Linnaeus). Carried.

7

Dr. Coues moved that Steganopus be raised to full generic rank, thus admitting three full genera (Crymophilus, Phalaropus and Steganopus) for the Phalaropus. Carried.

Dr. Coues moved that Sula gossii Ridgway of the Check List be replaced by Sula nebouxii Milne-Edwards [Ridgway,Manual N. Am. Birds, Ed. 2,p 584,1896]. Carried.

Mr. Ridgway moved that Geotrygon martinica of the Check List be changed to Geotrygon chrysia Bonaparte [Salvadori,Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. XXI,671]. Carried.

Dr. Merriam moved that Agelaius phoeniceus sonoriensis Ridgway be changed to Agelaius phoeniceus longirostris Salvadori, the prior name [Ridgway,Manual N. Am. Birds,2nd Ed. p. 370, 1896]. Carried.

Mr Ridgway moved that Junco ridgwayi of the Check Listbe changed to J.annectens, which proves to have been based on a specimen of the red-backed form subsequently named J. ridgwayi by Mearns; and that the bird generally known under the name Junco annectens be inserted into the Check List as J. mearnsi Ridgway. [See Auk, 14,p. ,Jan.1897.]

As amended, the two forms will stand thus:

568. Junco mearnsi Ridgway. Pink-sided Junco
568.1. Junco annectens Baird. Ridgway's Junco

Mr Ridgway moved that the generic name Lucar Bartram be not substituted for Galeoscoptes Cabanis.

Washington,
Dec.12,1896.

Dear Brewster:

The rush of work of the Nomenclature Committee has kept me from answering your letter of the 8th inst. This Committee, it seems to me, should look upon its work more seriously. I think we (I include myself) are inclined to rush the work along too fast without giving some questions the time they deserve. Recent events seem to prove this; also the fact that questions settled one way by unanimous vote at Cambridge were settled the opposite way by unanimous vote here. There must be a screw loose somewhere or such things would not be possible. Some of these days we are going to make a bad break and somebody is going to jump on us with both feet. Even now I should hate to see in print such a notice of the doings of the Committee as several of us might write if we would! One source of trouble is that we leave things till the last minute and then rush them through in such haste that we sometimes go off at half cock . Would it not be a good plan to parsel out the work a month or so before the meeting so that some one person would be responsible in each case for the bottom references and the like?

To change the subject: I am glad you wrote me as fully as you did about the various matters that have combined to detain you and consume your time. I had a pretty fair general notion of these things before, but of course without details. Now I think I understand the lay of the land and appreciate the difficulties against

which you have to contend. I, too, am called upon to meet similar difficulties. Our cases differ absolutely in details but amount to exactly the same thing in the end, for with both of us the struggle is against unfavorable conditions in our efforts to secure more time for original work.

My routine official work consists in a large and exacting correspondence, the identification of specimens(of which thousands are sent me each year for the purpose), the reading and editing of manuscripts(often amounting to rewriting), proof reading, the preparation of official reports, the planning and supervision of the work of my assistants, both in office and in the field, planning and supervising the preparation of special bulletins and articles on the economic side of ornithology and mammalogy, continuing the study of geographic distribution from the economic or agricultural side, the general care of large and rapidly increasing collections of mammals, birds, reptiles, bird stomachs, seeds, trees and shrubs and other zone plants, and so on, and in attempting to be polite to the thousand and one people who call at my office on all conceivable errands from morning till night every day in the year when I am home.

Aside from official duties I am a member of several governing boards and of the Joint Commission, and am on the Publication Committees of several Scientific Societies, and Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Goode Memorial Meeting. As editor of the Biolo-

gical Society's Proceedings I am frequently called upon to edit and rearrange manuscripts and to prepare illustrations for reproduction both as plates and text figures, and so on. As Zoological Editor of Science I am expected to contribute various brief notices and to review current literature in certain departments. My reviews alone for the past two years make a fair volume. Then I am obliged to prepare and deliver two or three new lectures every winter, each of which consumes a good deal of time; and it is--or seems to be--necessary for me to attend at least two meetings of scientific societies each week.

Besides all these things there are certain social duties which I cannot escape and which make still further inroads on my time and strength. As a result, I am fortunate if I get one evening a week, free from calls, for work. During office hours I may get 10 minutes today, a half hour next day, no time at all the day after--and so it goes. I have absolutely no time for continuous original work and the only way I accomplish anything is by keeping a piece of work constantly at my elbow and picking it up whenever I can snatch a moment between interruptions. This way of working is only a matter of habit. At first it was difficult, but now it is second nature--still I have to admit it is uphill work and does not give a man a fair show. I try to put on a serene exterion and, like Chapman, smile at my time-devouring enemies, while inwardly I am gnashing my teeth and bemoaning the loss of time.

You have the advantage of me in that you have many half days at home and when too hard pressed can run away to Concord and thus escape a host of interruptions.

As I look at your case I see two obstacles to progress. The first consists of the innumerable odds and ends in the way of specimens, notes, letters and so on which now take up practically all of your spare time; the second is the absence of the habit (for it is nothing but a habit) of jumping right into a piece of real work whenever you can steal a half hour between times. I am perfectly certain that you can overcome both of these difficulties. Your collection is now in superb condition and shows the results of years of painstaking labor. The expenditure of a comparatively small amount of time will keep it from deteriorating and put additions where they will take no harm. Hire a competent stenographer to come to you once a week for two or three hours and dictate to him all your week's correspondence at one dose. As soon as he gets used to your style and to the technical terms (he can look up the bird's names himself in the Check List) you will be surprised to find that you can get through with about as much work in an hour as you could by yourself in a whole day.

I use a stenographer for almost everything except personal work at home, and would have one here evenings if I could afford it. When comparing specimens a stenographer saves even more time than in ordinary letter writing because you are not obliged to be

everlastingly taking up and putting down your pen and taking up and putting down your specimens.

To cure your second trouble, keep at your elbow all the time a piece of real work, and force yourself to go at it whenever you have a moments time. It will not be long before you get to carry this work unconsciously so that you can pick it up and drop it as many times a day as necessary and still make fair progress.

By all means come on here not later than the first of January and finish your Lower California book. This will ease your mind of a real bugbear and at the same time will set you on the right path. Then when you go back, start right in on your New England book and keep it always on your desk. In six months you will be amazed to find how much you have accomplished.

There is just one other thing I want to say before cutting off this long string of gratuitous advice, and that is this: When in your cabin at Concord you frightened me and made the cold chills creep up and down my back by deliberately telling how near you came to associating someone with you in joint authorship of your New England book. You have no right to shift or divide your responsibility in this way and I want you to promise that you never will. It is your duty, and should be your pride, to write that book yourself. If I were not perfectly certain that you can do it I would not write as I have written.

As ever your friend

William H. Hunter

C. Hart Merriam

Washington, D. C.

January 3, 1897.

Hon. Gardiner G. Hubbard,

President Joint Commission.

My dear Sir:

For many years it has been the hope of a number of prominent scientific men and uducators, including the presidents of several of our leading universities, that sooner or later the scattered scientific bureaus of the Government might be brought together within a single department.

You doubtless remember the unsuccessful effort that was made during the Harrison administration to bring about such a union under the Department of Agriculture. During the past four years this movement, for obvious reasons, has remained dormant.

In discussing the matter recently, the hope has been expressed that the advent of the incoming republican administration might prove a propitious time for the revival of the project.

The center about which other scientific bureaus would naturally gather is the Department of Agriculture, which already contains the Weather Bureau, Bureau of Animal Industry, Biological Survey, Forestry department, Divisions of Botany, Entomology, Vegetable Physiology, Chemistry, Soil investigations, Fiber investigations and so on. Bills providing for the transfer of the Fish Commission and Geological Survey to the Department of Agriculture were introduced at the last session of Congress and are sure to be revived.

The loss to science of the Coast Survey and Fish Commission under the Cleveland administration is a terrible warning of the dangers that threaten other scientific departments under the present political system. With a view to averting these dangers and paving the way to a union of the scientific bureaus under a common head, leading scientific and educational men from all parts of the country have united in urging the creation in the Department of Agriculture of a permanent Director-in-Chief of scientific bureaus and investigations. It is earnestly hoped that this position will be established by the present Congress.

Equally important--perhaps even more important at this critical stage--is the appointment as Secretary of Agriculture of a liberal, broad minded, educated man who will take an intelligent interest in the development and coordination of the scientific bureaus of the Government. It would be a great triumph for the cause of good government, as well as for that of science and education, if the President would concede a Cabinet position to these interests. An almost ideal person for this position would seem to be Dr. Charles W. Dabney Jr. Dr. Dabney is not only in full sympathy with the movement above outlined but is himself a scientific man, a man of culture and presence, and an administrative officer of rare ability and power.

After studying abroad for several years and receiving the degree of Ph.D. at the University of Goettingen, he was called to the

chair of Chemistry in the University of North Carolina, and was afterward made State Chemist, and director of the Experiment Station at Raleigh. In 1887 he was elected to the Presidency of the University of Tennessee, which position he still holds. In 1893 he was appointed Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and the following year was made Chairman of the Government Board of the Cotton States and International Exposition at Atlanta, Georgia. His success in the discharge of the manifold duties incident to these offices is too well known to need comment.

Dr. Dabney is cool and conservative, and at the same time progressive, wide awake and active. He is an excellent judge of men and possesses in an unusual degree the power of so shaping the work of others as to accomplish the best results. As Assistant Secretary of Agriculture under the Cleveland administration he has familiarized himself with the present work and future possibilities of the various scientific bureaus and divisions, all of which have been under his immediate control, and has improved the service in various directions. He is ambitious for the growth and development of the Department and has a clear insight into its needs.

The future of agriculture in America depends so largely on the intelligent application of the truths developed by scientific investigations that it would seem wise to place at the head of the National Department of Agriculture a man who is not only in sympathy with these investigations, but who from previous training is

competent to understand their nature and aims.

My object in writing is to ask if in your judgement there is any possibility of accomplishing so desirable an end, and if so, if you, as President of the Joint Commission of the Scientific Societies of Washington will undertake to bring the matter to the attention of the President-elect.

Very truly yours,

E. Hart Merriam

WASHINGTON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Report of Committee on Publication.

To the Board of Managers:

Your Committee on Publication has the honor to report.—

1. That the preparation and publication of the Joint Directory was referred with power to a sub-committee consisting of Mr Marcus Baker, who long ago sent circulars and return postal cards to the mailing lists furnished by the secretaries of the nine Affiliated Societies. The laborius task of completing and correcting about 2 addresses from the imperfect returns received, and of preparing copy for printer was promptly attended to by Mr Baker. Two signatures, comprising 34 pages, have been struck off and it is expected that the Directory will be issued on or about

2. That specifications for printing the Proceedings have been in the hands of bidders a week and it is expected that before the close of the present week the contract will be signed.

3. That a set of Rules relating to Publication has been prepared by the Committee and is herewith submitted for the consideration and approval of the Board.

4. Your Committee recommend that in the matter of censorship and acceptance of papers offered for publication, one of the following alternative plans of procedure be adopted and entered upon the minutes; or, if neither meets the approval of the Board, that a substitute plan be adopted and recorded.

Alternative propositions:

A. The Committee on Publication shall examine papers offered for publication and may refer them to special committees for advice; it shall then submit them to the Board, with recommendation and estimate of cost; the Board shall accept or reject.

B. The Committee on Publication shall examine papers offered for Publication and may refer them to special committees for advice; it is authorized to accept or reject papers, or to refer them to the Board for decision.

5. Your Committee recommend that in the matter of cost of illustrations the Committee be authorized to exercise its discretion, dividing the cost with authors whenever practicable.

6. Your Committee further recommend that 100 copies of the Proceedings, covered, be sent as issued to a library and exchange list.

In perfecting plans and rules for publication, your Committee has examined a large number of medical and scientific serials, and, through the courtesy of Mr W J McGee, has had the benefit of the very full and elaborate report, only in part published, of a committee of the Geological Society of America which several years ago made a comprehensive study of scientific serials. The procedure of the Geological Society has afforded many valuable suggestions and precedents.

Your Committee aims to make the Proceedings of the Wash-

lngton Academy of Sciences a model of its kind. With this end in view it has made a study of the composition and durability of papers, size of page, size of type bed, size and character of type face, reproduction of illustrations, and so on, which, with the necessary correspondence, has required time. The result, it is hoped, will justify the delay.

RULES RELATING TO PUBLICATION

1. The Proceedings of the Washington Academy of Sciences shall be issued in dated brochures, paged consecutively for the volume.

2. A brochure may comprise one or more papers, according to length, at the option of the Committee on Publication.

3. The date on each brochure shall be that of actual publication, which shall be one day later than the date of delivery by the printer to the Committee.

4. Each brochure shall be distributed on the date of its publication. Copies shall be sent to all members of the Academy, to subscribers, and to a library and exchange list approved by the Board of Managers.

5. At the close of each volume, which shall coincide as nearly as possible with the calendar year, a brochure comprising volume-title page, contents, and index shall be issued.

6. The regular edition shall consist of one thousand copies.

7. Contributors to the PROCEEDINGS must be members of the Academy or of one of the Affiliated Societies; provided however that in exceptional cases the Board, by a three-fourths vote of the members voting at a stated meeting, may accept for publication papers contributed by non-members of the Affiliated organization.

8. Each paper offered for publication must be accompanied by a written recommendation from the Affiliated Society representing the branch of Science to which the paper relates, except in special cases where publication is ordered by the Board of Managers of the Academy.

9. In case of papers tendered by an Affiliated Society, the cost of publication shall be shared equally by the Academy and said Society.

10. In case of special papers ordered published by the Board of Managers, the whole cost of publication shall be borne by the Academy.

11. Papers offered for publication shall be delivered to the Chairman of the Committee on Publication, who shall be Editor of the Proceedings. The Editor shall submit to the Committee an estimate of cost, and shall see that papers are promptly examined in such manner as the Board of Managers may direct.

Manuscript submitted for publication must be in form as well as substance ready for the printer. It must be complete as to text and illustrations, must be perfectly legible (preferably type-

written), and must be preceded by a brief table of contents. The cost of any necessary revision of copy or reconstruction of illustrations shall be charged to the author.

13. The cost of proof corrections due to alterations made by the author will be charged to the author.

14. Proofs shall be submitted to authors or persons designated by authors whenever practicable; but printing shall not be delayed by reason of absence or inattention of authors.

15. Papers accepted for publication in the Academy's Proceedings must not be previously published elsewhere except by consent of the Academy.

16. Author's separates shall not differ in any particular from the regular edition. Any desired number may be ordered in advance through the Committee on Publication, at the expense of the author, and at a rate of cost agreed upon by the Committee and printer.

February 11, 1918

Respectfully submitted,

E. Mott Thurston, Chairman

Committee on Publication

Washington

March 2, 1898.

Dear Roosevelt:

Thanks for your letter. Dean will write you what he wants, which, as I understand it, is an opportunity to do field work in completing his studies of the fishes of the State.

As to Dabney and the California University: Mrs Phoebe A. Hearst of San Francisco is a Regent of the University and a very influential one, since it is her money that has provided for the wonderful set of buildings they expect to erect. Mrs. Hearst used to spend her winters here and you may have met her.

As to the forestry matter: does it not strike you that aggressive interference from outside the State is, to put it mildly, a trifle out of place? You of course appreciate the delicacy of my position, but one would think the State, having already established, in connection with Cornell, a school of forestry at Ithaca and a farm of experimental forestry in the Adirondacks could hardly afford to divide its responsibility by permitting the introduction of another and antagonistic policy before the first has had a fair trial. At the present time Fernow seems to be the official head of forestry matters in the State. Why not give him full swing and watch the result? If he succeeds, give him the benefit of that success; if he fails, fire him and try someone else. But dont waste the vitality and sacrifice the dignity of the State by having two heads at the same time.

About that Olympic Elk: Lydekker has dug up an old name (occidentalis) which was given provisionally in a vague sort of way to a 'Western' animal, but which unfortunately seems to have been based on an antler sent to England from Vancouver Island. On this assumption, occidentalis would have to stand for the west coast species unless it can be shown that the animal south of the Straits of Fuca is different from the Vancouver animal. I hope to obtain specimens from Vancouver Id. for direct comparison, so as to settle the case one way or the other.

As ever yours,

C. Hart Merriam

The Hon.
Governor Theodore Roosevelt

Albany, New York.

Washington
April 27, 1891

My dear Uncle James:

I have had to go to New York again on the Hawaiian Alaska exped. matter, which has delayed me in replying to your letter about the tax on Arthur's estate.

It does not clear to me that the children should pay taxes tax, but as it must be paid somehow and you have denied accountants all round I send you herewith my check for $68.25 the amount indicated on your memorandum. If I had left the money in the bank I would gladly have advanced the entire amount and so have saved you trouble in the matter.

Father is physically very much stronger, but mentally as away off somewhere most of the time.

As ever yours
Mark.

James S. Clarkson Esq.

Nov. 22, 1899

Dr. C. Hart Merriam,

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 10th inst. inquiring as to the progress made on my book on "Life Areas of North America", I would state that about half the work has been written, and that 1/10 of the field work has been done.

The most difficult problems to deal with are those that relate to the distribution of animals and plants to climate. I have now spent parts of six years in studying the coast region and mountains, and have spent 5 months in the coast from northern Alaska to middle California.

While much work on geographic distribution rests entirely on a knowledge of the facts of distribution in the new world. And since both American & foreign have been over it has required some years to ascertain the facts, and I am not all known yet.

Respectfully

C. Hart Merriam

January 13 1900

Dr. Alexander Graham Bell,
1331 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

In compliance with your request, I enclose herewith some memoranda prepared by me at the request of the late Gardiner G. Hubbard in November, 1897. These memoranda relate to the establishment in Washington of a School of Science, in which matter Mr. Hubbard was greatly interested.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

(Rough outline for first years work)

Zoology	105	lectures and 70 evenings in laboratory	$1,330
Botany	50	" 70 " "	780
Geography	30	".....	500
Geology	50	".....	500
Anthropology	30	".....	300
History	30	".....	300
Chemistry	10	".....	100
Astronomy	10	".....	100
Physics	10	".....	100
	345	lectures and 140 evenings laboratory	4,010
Equipment of Biological laboratory		Reagents etc $ 50 15 microscopes 562 Tables & fittings 250	862
Incidentals.....			128
			5,0

MATERIAL FOR A SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AT WASHINGTON.

So far as America is concerned it is safe to say that at Washington the facilities for higher education in the sciences are unequalled. No other city in the Union has so large a corps of eminent men engaged in original research in the fields of geology, geography, anthropology, zoology, botany, chemistry, and astronomy.

Most of these men are employed and paid by the Government so that their services in lecturing and superintending laboratory work could be had at a trifling expense. All that is needed is organization, a home and a small fund. Incredible as it seems, an excellent course in science, comprising 350 lectures and 140 evenings of laboratory work by 40 different specialists, can be given in this city for the insignificant sum of $5000--the salary of a single professor in our leading Universities.

The Biological part of the course would be particularly strong the plans having progressed so far that a course of 150 lectures and 140 evenings of laboratory work has been arranged for in Zoology and Botany. In these branches special emphasis could be given the systematic and economic sides, neglected in most of our universities. The instruction would be given by at least 20 specialists, each proficient in some line of biological research.

Courses of equal merit can be arranged in Geology, Geography, Anthropology, Astronomy and Chemistry.

As a recent writer has said, the genius and training are already here, most of the facilities are already provided, and feasible research to be done save the distribution of existing instrumentalities. It is of utmost importance that the early steps be guided by wisdom and experience.

Washington, D. C.,
January 13, 1900.

Prof. H. H. Donaldson,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Sir:

Believing that one of the needs of American men of science is a representative organization--an organization comprising the leaders in the various branches and departments of science--the Washington Academy has established a class of non-resident members, as you will see from the accompanying papers, and has appointed special committees in the several branches of science for the purpose of nominating the most distinguished representative men in each class. You have been thus nominated, and unanimously elected by the Board of Managers, and I trust you will accept.

The Washington Academy has undertaken the publication of a Proceedings, which in form, quality, paper, and character of illustration, is intended to equal the best in the country. The first volume contains 8 papers, a number of text figures, and 26 full page plates. The second volume promises to be much larger and more fully illustrated than the first. It is believed that the excellence of this publication will gradually lead to a reduction in the number of scientific serials now so widely scattered over the country. Papers are published on the 'dated brochure' plan, and are mailed to members and to an exchange list on the date borne on the first page.

Very truly yours,

February 3, 1900.

Dear Professor Langley:

In reply to your letter of yesterday asking for an expression of my views respecting the Bison Preserve scheme of 'Buffalo Jones', I would state that the Jones proposition seems to me in the main a good one and well worthy of support. But the Senate Bill (2331) providing for the same, introduced January 11, by Mr. Baker, requires in my judgement, a few amendments.

The first relates to the number of females, which is not specified. Would it not be well to amend line 12 of Section 2 so that it shall read "American bison, of which number at least 50 [or 75] shall be females of suitable age for breading"? Before fixing the number, it might be well to ascertain from Mr. Jones how many it is possible for him to supply.

I do not like the unit of increase by means of which excess is measured (p. 3, lines 20 and 21), namely, "one bison to each 500 acres of land" and would suggest that definite numbers be used instead.

Would it not be well to interpolate a clause in line 22 page 3 after the word 'case', as follows: "always provided the total number of adults remaining is in excess of one hundred"? This may be implied, but it seems to me it is not stated with sufficient clearness, and there would be no harm in making it absolutely free from ambiguity.

Would it not be well to amend Section 3 in such manner that the control of game in the reservation be left with the Secretary of the

Interior? While it is manifestly proper that the bison should be under the control of Jones, it seems equally clear that the game, being on public land, should be under the control of the Secretary of the Interior. With this object in view, I would suggest that the first part of Section 3 be amended to read as follows: "That it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to kill, maim, take or dispose of any bison, or cut, tear down or destroy any fence or enclosure except by written consent of the said Charles D. Jones, his heirs or assigns; and that it shall be unlawful to hunt, shoot, take or trap game of any kind within the boundary of said tract of land except by written consent of the Secretary of the Interior."

You have probably observed that the Bill assumes throughout that the project will be a success and makes no provision for failure in whole or in part. It occurs to me that in the event of the herd's diminishing instead of increasing it might not only prove impossible for Jones, his heirs and assigns "to remove from said tract of land for his [or their] personal use the same number of male and female bison first placed by him upon said tract of land", but further, that the United States might become liable for a deficiency. Would it not be well, therefore, to interpolate a provision in line 3 of page 4 to the effect that the number withdrawn by the Jones interest shall be contingent on the number than present on the reservation?

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

To Prof. S. P. Langley
Secretary Smithsonian Institution.

Washington, D. C., February 13, 1900.

Mr. C. William Beebe,
33 West 124th Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Beebe:

Pardon my delay in acknowledging your letter of the 7th inst. and the series of photographs which arrived in good condition a day or two later. I was in bed with an acute bronchitis at that time and am not yet caught up.

You have certainly been remarkably successful, and I hope you will keep at this line of work whenever you have an opportunity. You have evidently mastered the technique and have overcome most of the obstacles that beset a man in his early career as a photographer of zoological objects. You are now in a position to go ahead, and no one may say where you will bring up. Some of your pictures are simply fascinating. I wonder if you would be willing to have slides made for me, at my expense of course, of three of them. I should like particularly to have the jumping mouse, the Idotea, and the spider on a bunchberry blossom. I should also like the Pleurobrachia, both on the same slide, to show what Yankee ingenuity can accomplish in the way of devising impromptu tools. If this is not asking too much, and you can have these made so that they will reach me not later than the 2nd or 3rd of March (earlier if practicable), I shall be greatly obliged. I will return the prints to you immediately after the meeting, though I should very much like to keep

C.W.B.2.

the print of the Zapus.

Thanking you again for your interest and kindness in the matter, I remain,

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

479

Washington, D.C., February 13= 1900.

Hon. John B. Wight,

Commissioner District of Columbia.

My dear Mr. Wight:

Mr. Walcott has referred to me your letter of the 7th inst., inquiring about the plates from which Judge Davis's paper was printed. Unfortunately for your purpose, this, like all other papers in the Proceedings of the Washington Academy of Sciences, was printed from the type direct, and the type distributed immediately thereafter. Copies of Judge Davis's paper on the Political development of the District may be had from the Treasurer, Mr. Bernard R. Green, Library of Congress Building, at 25 cents each. The same is true of the paper on the Economic development of the District, by Carroll D. Wright, and Mr. Spofford's paper entitled "The coming of the white man and the founding of the National Capitol."

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Editor.

480

Washington, D.C., February 13, 1900.

Prof. E. B. Wilson,

Columbia University, New York City.

My dear Wilson:

Your letter of the 7th inst. is the kind of a letter I like to receive. I am very glad that your attitude toward the Washington Academy is what you state, and I think that as time goes on you will find it desirable to remain a non-resident member. The Academy has, as I understand it, two definite objects in view: The first is to become the representative organization of American scientific men-- a live, active organization, not too conservative or too lazy to undertake important things. Its second object is to publish a scientific Proceedings, on the dated brochure plan, which will take rank with the best in the country. Only permanent paper will be used for either text or illustrations. Papers submitted for publication will be received at any time, and after proper scrutiny will be published and distributed promptly.

With best wishes, I remain,

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Washington, D.C., February 13, 1900.

Prof. Simon H. Gage,

Ithaca, New York.

Dear Professor Gage:

I am obliged for your note of the 10th inst., and am glad to know that you are willing to aid us in our attempt to advance the art of photography as an adjunct to scientific research. I enclose herewith $2.00, and shall be glad if you will kindly have made and sent to me its equivalent in slides, the same to be selected by yourself as those best illustrating either the advantages of photographic illustration in particular cases, or the special merits of special methods. I shall be glad also if you will loan me a few photographs which I will return after the meeting. If you can refer me to some publication containing a description of your methods I shall be greatly obliged. I am also grateful for your calling my attention to the work of Professor Slingerland. I shall endeavor to obtain some of his results also.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Washington, D. C., February 13, 1900.

Prof. H. C. Bumpus,

Brown University,

Providence, R. I.

My dear Professor Bumpus:

I am exceedingly obliged for the trouble you have taken in sending me the dozen lantern slides, which arrived today in good condition. These slides are certainly wonderfully interesting, and show a phase of the subject which is entirely new to most of us here. I am sure they will be greatly appreciated by the Academy.

I am also obliged for your paper on Necturus, and your explanation as to the way the plates were made directly from the films. This is certainly most remarkable.

Kindly thank Professor Gorham for his paper showing photographs of living fish.

I shall return your slides promptly after the meeting, which is to be held March 6, instead of February 27 as at first supposed.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Washington, D. C.
February 1[illegible] 1900.

Major Henry L. Higginson,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

The Washington Academy of Sciences is a representative organization of American scientific men. It embraces all departments of science, and its membership, including the non-resident class, comprises most of the representative workers in each branch of research throughout the country.

The Washington Academy has undertaken the publication of a 'Proceedings', which it aims to make the best in America. I take the liberty to send you herewith a set of the papers which make up the first volume. The illustrations in this volume are not satisfactory, but it is hoped that those in the second volume will be better.

We have no publication in this country corresponding to the better class of those issued by foreign learned societies, such as the Royal and Zoological Societies of London, and as a result American scientific men are forced to publish in widely scattered serials, none of which have adequate means for illustration. The Washington Academy hopes to secure a publication fund, or several funds devoted to special subjects--as Zoological Botanical, Astronomical and so on. In case of the contribution of such funds, the name of the donor will be carried in perpetuity on the parts of the Proceedings published therewith. Personally I am most interested in the establishment of a fund for the publication of Biological papers.

I trust you will pardon the liberty I have taken in bringing this matter to your notice. I thought it might possibly interest you. If not, do not take the trouble to reply.

Respectfully,

C. Hart Merriam

Editor Proc.Wash.Acad.Sci.

Feb. 25, 1930

My dear Miss Higgins:

I have [illegible] my delay in acknowledging your very kind letter of the 19th inst. which reached me just at the time of my father's death. Between that time and this it has been impossible for me to write.

Respecting your generous offer to contribute funds to enable us to continue or supplement your son's work in Montana, I must say frankly that the results would not be likely to justify the expenditure, from the standpoint of a biological survey. From your own standpoint, however, the case may be different. I mean by this that if your son really desires and intends to write for publication a report on the scientific results of his trip, he should have more to write about than the material he has himself

collected. In this case it would be desirable
to send some one there to make as complete
collections and notes as possible, and I
should if I were be glad to help find a
competent man for this task. But as
this will depend entirely upon your plans
and aims I do not feel competent to advise
in the matter.

I have arranged with the St. Matthews RR
to stop this east bound No. 4 express at
bridge 125 on the evening of March 7 (Wednesday)
to take aboard you and two kits.

With assurances of appreciation of your
generous offer, and regret that the circum-
stances do not seem to warrant me in
taking advantage of it, I remain,

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

(Major Henry L. Higginson
Boston.)

February 28, 1900.

Mr. William Brewster

Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Brewster:

It is much to be regretted that you, Batchelder, and Faxon were unable to be present at the meeting of the A. O. U. Index Committee held here last week. In matters of this kind it is almost impossible to arrive at the best results except by coming together where we can listen to the arguments pro and con.

From our point of view at this end of the line, the two cardinal principles to be kept in view in indexing are (1) the object of an index, which is convenience in looking up references; and (2 — a natural corollary of the first) that where page references accumulate under a given entry, they should be classified under discriminative subheadings to avoid what we so often see in old style indexes---solid blocks of page numbers. We passed a resolution to the effect that not more than six page references should be given under one heading.

There are two points concerning which we feel very strongly at this end of the line and on which Doctor Dwight tells me you differ from us radically, and I promised to write you and present our views. The first is the generic name under which the various entries should be arranged; the second is the treatment of subspecies. In the case of the generic name, we feel that the latest name adopted by the A. O. U. should be the one under which the entries are arranged in the Index, and that all other generic names

W. B. S.

should cross refer to this one. The reason for this is that the index will be used in the future, not in the past. Consequently the generic name sought for would be, in nine cases out of ten, the name last adopted by the Union. We know very well from experience that in a few years former generic combinations will be forgotten and only the current name used. There are two or three cases, I believe, in which the Union has accidentally made a wrong ruling, which ruling may be corrected in time for the Index. Of course you understand that all generic names used in the text, from the first volume of the 'Nuttall Bulletin' down to date, will be given in the Index, and that each will be followed by a cross reference to the modern generic name under which all page references are given.

Now as to subspecies: Inasmuch as an index is an index and not a classification, it deals with names and has nothing to do with matters of rank. Therefore, in our judgment, subspecies for index purposes should be treated as species, exactly as in the case of nomenclature. In the case of subspecies and subgenera, there always has been, is, and always will be difference of opinion as to the matter of rank. The history of our own Checklist as well as the experience of zoologists and botanists throughout the world shows not only that what one man regards as a species and genus, another man regards as a subspecies and subgenus; but that individual authors and committees change their points of view from time to time as to the rank of a particular form or collection of forms, so that while names are matters of fact conceded by common agreement to be fixed and stable, matters of rank are matters of opinion, cannot possibly be fixed, and are undergoing constant fluctuations.

W. B. 3.

It should be constantly borne in mind that the Index is for future use, not for past or present use, and therefore that particular combinations which some of us remember, will be unfamiliar to the great majority of those who use the Index. But even now, who can remember off hand the particular specific name with which ~~all of the~~ each subspecies of North American birds ~~are~~ is associated? In my own case, I think of subspecies as units, without regard to the combination, and in the case of a large number of western subspecies with which I have been for years familiar, I am obliged to admit that it is impossible for me to give the full combination off hand. Take a simple case. Suppose a man is in search of information respecting the Texas night hawk. He would naturally turn in the Index to Chordeiles texensis under which head the bird was given in the first edition of our Checklist, and under which name any one would naturally think of it. But in the Index, if the full combinations are given, the name could not be found in its proper alphabetic order at all, but would occur on some distant page under the name Chordeiles acutipennis texensis. It must be remembered in this connection that the species and subspecies in our Index will not start together in a single compact series, but will be separated by a vast accumulation of headings and subheadings relating to a great variety of subjects, so that the alphabetic position of a subspecific name will often vary several pages according to whether it is indexed (as it should be in my judgment) under its individual name, or ~~whether it is indexed~~ under the species with which it chanced to be associated at the particular moment the last edition or supplement of the Checklist happened to be voted upon.

W. B. 4.

There is another but very much less important reason for not indexing subspecies as trinomials. It is this: Printed as trinomials, they take up much more room on the line and consequently turn more lines, increasing the size and cost of the Index. This to me, however, is a trivial objection. The main point is that an index is not a classification. It deals with names which are matters of fact, not with rank, which is a matter of opinion.

I had intended to ask you to send this letter to Batchelder and Faxon, but I think I will send it in duplicate in order to save time, and hope you will have an opportunity to talk the matter over with them.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Sent in duplicate to
Chas. L. Batchelder
Walter Faxon
Witmer Stone

Washington
March 10, 1902.

My dear Mrs. Higginson:

How can I thank you sufficiently for what you have done? I can only promise that the fifteen hundred dollars you have so generously contributed to our publication fund to enable us to print more papers in systematic zoology shall be spent in such manner as to advance zoological science in a field which is now much handicapped.

You of course know that the study of species in nature — the study in which your father and brother attained such eminence, and to which a few zoologists (myself among the number) have devoted the greater part of their lives — is not fashionable now a-days, and receives little support, many of the teachers in the colleges having gone daft over section cutting, histology and other small matters which they conceive to constitute Biology. As a consequence, workers in systematic zoology are hard pressed for a suitable medium in which to publish their papers. The Washington Academy offers such a medium, so far as its limited funds go, and your generous gift will enable us to take a long stride ahead and set a good example.

A few days ago I received a letter from your son dated Feb. 3, which I shall answer shortly.

With kindest regards and appreciative thanks to you and Mr. Higginson

Very truly yours
C. Hart Merriam

Mrs. H. L. Higginson

March 24, 1900.

Prest. J. M. Taylor
Vassar College
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Learning that Dr. C. H. Eigenmann of the University of Indiana is an applicant for the Chair of Zoology in Vassar, I take the liberty to say a word in his behalf.

While I have not come in contact with Professor Eigenmann as a teacher, I have known him in this capacity for many years, and have always heard his school work spoken of in terms of commendation. I know him best as an investigator in zoological science, a field in which he has obtained eminent distinction, and is known the world over. I may mention incidentally in this connection that Doctor Eigenmann was one of forty American zoologists invited to become non-resident members of the Washington Academy of Sciences, which fact shows the esteem in which he is held as an original investigator.

Mrs. Eigenmann also, as you doubtless know, is one of the few women in America who have obtained distinction from original work in zoology. I believe that Professor Eigenmann would fill the Chair of Zoology in Vassar to the satisfaction of all concerned, and that his presence there would reflect credit on the institution.

Respectfully,

March 24, 1900.

Prof. C. H. Eigenmann
Bloomington, Indiana.

My dear Doctor Eigenmann:

It gives me much pleasure to write to President J. M. Taylor of Vassar, recommending you for the Chair of Zoology. I shall be very glad to learn that you succeed in obtaining this position.

Very truly yours,

C. Hart Merriam

Washington—
April 30, 1700.

My dear Judge:

I am glad to hear from your letter of April 24 that the Bradley estate account is to be presented to the Probate Court shortly. I have been expecting to receive this account daily for some time past but it has not yet arrived. Please send it as early as possible as it will take some time to go over it and check it off with the previous statements I have.

Yours truly
C. Hart Merriam

Judge W. K. Townsend
New Haven, Conn.

Washington, D.C.
Jan. 25, 1906.

Dear Professor Osborn:

In reply to your recent letter I would state that in my judgment no one in America is better qualified for the position of Superintendent of a great Zoological park than William T. Hornaday. Mr. Hornaday has traveled extensively in various parts of the world and has made enormous collections in Natural History.

His interesting book entitled Two Years in the Jungle tells of his personal experiences with the big game of India, Ceylon, the Malay Peninsula and Borneo; while in this country his expeditions to the far west, when collecting Buffalo and other animals for our National Museum, have brought him into personal contact with the habits and mode of life of many species. Furthermore, his numerous articles on the mammals of North America show him to possess in a marked degree the two preeminent qualifications of a successful keeper of animals, namely, love for the animals themselves, and personal knowledge of their habits and food.

Mr. Hornaday is a man of absolute integrity, and his most prominent characteristics are energy, enthusiasm and common sense. He is the father of our National Zoo at Washington, and I believe him to possess more of the qualifications necessary for building up a great Zoological park than any other man in America.

Hoping you may be successful in securing his services,

I remain,

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Prof. Henry F. Osborn,
New York City.

Retake of Preceding Frame

Washington, D.C.
Jan. 29, 1906.

Dear Professor Osborn:

In reply to your recent letter I would state that in my judgment no one in America is better qualified for the position of Superintendent of a great Zoological park than William T. Hornaday. Mr. Hornaday has traveled extensively in various parts of the world and has made enormous collections in Natural History.

His interesting book entitled Two Years in the Jungle tells of his personal experiences with the big game of India, Ceylon, the Malay Peninsula and Bernee; while in this country his expeditions to the far west, when collecting Buffalo and other animals for our National Museum, have brought him into personal contact with the habits and mode of life of many species. Furthermore, his numerous articles on the mammals of North America show him to possess in a marked degree the two preeminent qualifications of a successful keeper of animals, namely, love for the animals themselves, and personal knowledge of their habits and food.

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Hoping you may be successful in securing his services,

I remain,

Very truly yours,
C. Hart Merriam

Prof. Henry F. Osborn,
New York City.

PREFATORY NOTE.

The notes contained in this book were taken from March to May 1889, and from March to July, 1894, at Twin Oaks, San Diego County, California. Twin Oaks is a post office in a small valley of the Coast Mountains, forty miles north of San Diego, and fourteen miles east of the Pacific.

In a few instances the identity of a species is uncertain; in and it is therfore left unnamed. In cases where the plumage of the two sexes is practically identical and no significance attaches to it, they have been arbitrarily distinguished. A list of the birds referred to in the text follows the Table of Contents.

Several of the articles have appeared before in somewhat different form, in the Auk, the Observer and Our Animal Friends.

The illustrations are from actual photographs taken at the time, except those of eucalyptus from Los Angelos, for the use of which I am indebted to the courtesy of Dr. B.E. Fernow, Chief of the Division of Forestry, in the Department of Agriculture.

Washington, D.C. F.A.M.

January 14, 1896.

END OF REEL.

PLEASE REWIND.